MINUTES

of the

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

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MINUTES

of the

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

1864—1929

Compiled by order
of
Conference

COMPILING COMMITTEE

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PREFACE

The first session of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference was held on Oct. 14, 1864. It was then known as Indiana Mennonite Conference. At times some regulations were printed on separate slips. We have endeavored to find such slips for each session but have not been successful. Bro. David Burkholder did faithful work in gathering the information relative to the early conferences. Had this been left until the present writing, much more would have been lost. Where these printed slips are wanting, it seems that no notes were taken of the conference sessions except such as Bro. J. F. Funk took in the interest of the Herald of Truth, which for many years was the acknowledged organ of the various conferences in the United States and Canada. Frequently he used these notes in writing editorials, and in many cases, this is our only source of information. Not being present at every conference, there are some years of which we have no record, whatever. We will never know how much has been lost to the Church in not having a full report of the work of these early, faithful servants of God.

This part of the work covers the period from the beginning of the Mennonite branch of the present Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference to the time when the Amish and Mennonites united into one conference.

A BIT OF HISTORY

EARLY SETTLEMENTS OF THE MENNONITES IN ELKHART COUNTY, IND.

In 1843 John Smith came from Medina County, Ohio, and purchased the farm on which the Harrison Center School House stands, about 9 miles south and one mile east of Elkhart. Two years later, in the spring of 1845, bishop Martin Hoover, already eighty-five years old, with his son John, settled on a farm near Southwest. In the fall of the same year Joseph Smith and Christian Henning settled just east of the farm purchased by John Smith two years before. It seems that some time before the latter two arrived, Jacob Strohm had come from Ohio. About three years later Christian Christophel, Jacob Christophel, and Jacob Wisler with their families came from Columbiana County, Ohio. The last two named were ministers of the Gospel. On Ascension day, 1848, they held their first services in a log schoolhouse one-half mile north of Southwest. The three ministers were present, but Bro. Hoover took very little part, saying only a few words without rising to his feet. The sermon was delivered by Bro. Wisler.

For want of some one who could lead in song, they did not sing. The services were attended by sixteen persons. Thereafter services were held regularly every two weeks.

During the year, 1848, the colony was increased by twenty-four more families coming from various places in Ohio. Among the prominent names were Hartman, Holdeman, Moyer, Smeltzer, and others. In the summer of 1849 a log church house was built on the ground now occupied by the Mennonite church (frame) one mile north of Southwest. This building once took fire from the stove pipe and burned four of the ceiling boards and charred the girder half the length of the building but went out of its own accord and as if by miracle, saved the house. A twenty-four foot addition was built to this house, but in 1861 this house was moved away and the frame building now standing (1928) was erected in its place.

Others came and the settlement spread until it became necessary to organize other congregations. Possibly one of these needs further mention. Because of their adherence to the doc-

trine of nonresistance, Mennonites were compelled to leave Holland. In 1853, R. J. Schmidt and N. J. Symensma, both ministers, their families and a number of others came to America and settled in Elkhart County, southeast of Southwest. They had a congregation of their own and the services were conducted in their native language. In course of time these two faithful servants of God died, and the other members now constitute a part of the Salem congregation.

The conference has, at this writing (1928), ten prosperous congregations in Elkhart County where Mennonitism got its first foothold in the conference district. May the Lord prosper the work in the future.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 14, 1864

The meeting was opened with singing, exhortation and prayer, after which Bro. John M. Brenneman in a very earnest and for the occasion appropriate discourse, presented to the conference the various subjects to be considered and decided upon. These were afterward discussed by the ministering brethren present—some other points and questions were also presented, after which the brethren in general had the opportunity to ask questions, etc. Harmony and good feeling prevailed throughout the meeting. The brethren met and discussed the various subjects relating to the interests and well being of the Church and its members with a unity of feeling which becomes Christians.....

The council then agreed on the following points: 1. Since we are a nonresistant people and can not, according to our profession, hold office, nor take the sword, nor resort to any violent means whatever, therefore we acknowledge that it is inconsistent for us to vote for worldly officers, inasmuch as by so doing we would make ourselves liable also even by force to defend and sustain those whom we elect; it is therefore earnestly recommended and enjoined that the brethren do not interfere with political affairs nor take any part in elections, nor put themselves under any obligations, inconsistent with our profession, by voting, for since the brethren are divided in their sentiments in regard to political views the higher powers would suffer no loss if both parties would stay away from the polls, and thus union, peace and love might be preserved among them.

2. That we faithfully endeavor to keep the blessed injunction of Christ in His sermon on the mount where He says,

"Again ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths; but I say unto you, swear not at all," etc., Matt. 5: 33-37; Jas. 5:12.

3. That brethren and sisters observe, according to the doctrine of Christ to be humble and plain in their manner of dress, excluding therefrom all needless ornaments, hoops, laces, jewelry, artificial flowers and other things which tend to pride, such as wearing the hair after the fashions of the world and all its idle and useless follies.

4. That in regard to shunning those who for violation of the ordinances of the church or other gross sins have been excluded from the communion, the council held that a person so excluded should be avoided or shunned so far as the Word of God enjoins; that the brethren should not seek his society, and avoid as much as possible all intercourse and intimacy with him according to I Cor. 5:11, yet when through unavoidable circumstances they are brought together, it may be allowable for the brethren to eat at the same table; and at all times we should seek, in love to exhort the erring one and use every means in our power to reclaim him.

5. That when one brother trespasses against another, or by his conduct becomes an offense to him, the offended brother shall in all cases observe the rule laid down by Christ in Matt. 18: 15-17.....and if the officers of the church receive or accept such complaint from a member before the above rule has been observed, they will thereby make themselves guilty and responsible.

6. Active visitation of brethren living in localities where churches have not yet been established, and weak congregations, was earnestly recommended.

7. Inasmuch as some of our so-called Amish brethren have expressed a desire to unite and join in fellowship with us, a sincere and hearty welcome was extended to such as desire to do so, and especially are their ministers invited to visit our conference.

8. Whereas slight differences exist among the Mennonite brotherhood, in different parts of the United States and Canada, both in their views and practices, it would be well to hold a general conference and invite the brethren from all parts of the country from the East and West and from the North and the South that they might meet together and in the free interchange of views and opinions, become more united and more of one mind. This subject was only brought before the meeting as a matter for consideration and no action upon it. And with this view we publish it, that the brethren may think about it and if it is thought best, it may be determined upon at some future time, if not thought best, then no more need to be said about it.

No special closing is recorded to this conference, but the article continues with some things concerning Bro. Funk's visit in Indiana, at the close of which we notice the following: "P. S. The next semiannual conference will be held on the third Friday in May next, in Wayne County, Ohio." Bro. Funk says that for a number of years Conference alternated, being held in Ohio in the spring and in Indiana in the fall. It is quite evident that Bro. Funk did not attend the conference in Ohio in May, for the Herald of Truth has no report of the May meeting.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at Yellow Creek Church, October 13, 1865

This session of conference, like a number of others, is reported simply by an editorial in the Herald of Truth, there having been no secretary's report made. The Herald of Truth for November, 1865, has the following editorial:

"Conference was held according to previous appointment in Elkhart County, Indiana, on Friday, the 13th of October. A large concourse of people were present, among whom were twenty-four ministers and six deacons. (Nothing is said as to how many of the twenty-four were bishops.) The interest of the Church was discussed. Among the topics brought up for discussion were chiefly the following: Conformity to the world in respect to dress, associations, etc. It was unanimously assented that all decorations and ornaments, not necessary to the comfort and protection are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and therefore plainness and simplicity of apparel were strongly enjoined on those that would be followers of Christ. All connections with worldly associations such as the various secret orders, societies, etc., attendance to places of worldly amusements, political meetings, etc., were unanimously testified against as being inconsistent with a Christian profession and should not be participated in by any Christian.

It was further testified that, as regards marriage, no member of the Church could, according to the injunction of the Word of God, "marry only in the Lord," join in wedlock with one who is not a believer or a professor of Christianity, and that a follower of Christ should marry only a fellow believer of the same faith.

Other points were also alluded to, and among other things, brotherly love and humility of deportment were earnestly inculcated, and all were fervently exhorted to walk in the spirit of

forgiveness and Christian forbearance, to strive after holiness of life and peace with all men and in all their works and deeds to let the light of truth, love and peace shine before all men to the honor and glory of God.

No report of 1866 Conference.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held October 12, 1867

A large number of bishops, ministers, and deacons, from the states of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Canada, and Virginia assembled in conference on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 12, 1867. The meeting was opened by singing. Introductory remarks were made by Bro. George Weaver of Pennsylvania, after which the meeting engaged in prayer.

Among other points set forth, it was enjoined that we should all try to be faithful, labor diligently, walk prudently, and avoid misunderstandings with one another. In the erection of a building all the workmen must understand one another, and work together toward the completion of the building. Their purpose must be to erect the building. To this purpose they must be of one mind, so that one does not break down while another is trying to build up. So in the spiritual building of the Church, we must be of one and the same mind.

Bishops, ministers and deacons were exhorted to faithfulness in their several callings, and the duties of each set forth from the Word of God according to Titus 1 and I Peter 5. The purpose for which they should labor, the zeal and earnestness they should manifest, the reward that is promised to the faithful minister were all referred to and set forth. We should build on the true foundation, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, and other foundation can no man lay. Bishops, ministers and deacons should stand by each other, counsel with each other, and help one another. They were exhorted to be examples to the flock, and not be lords over God's heritage, but to exercise meekness, kindness and love. Each should attend especially to the duties belonging to his own special office. Ministers should preach the Word, warn the sinners, comfort and encourage the sin-sick soul, and be faithful in all things. Deacons should visit

the sick, distribute the alms of the church, and exercise themselves in prayer so that they may be able to pray with and for the sick.

The duty of prayer was also enjoined upon the brethren and sisters in general so that they might also be able to comfort the sick and afflicted in the hour of trial.

The doctrine of nonresistant Christianity should be firmly and strictly adhered to, and we should seek to spread the same abroad. There are very few among the great mass of mankind who know anything about the principles of nonresistance. We should seek to spread abroad the truth.

The questions were asked: Can a person who has been wounded in the army and receives a pension become a member of the Church consistently with the doctrines of nonresistant Christianity and continue to receive his pension. Answered affirmatively.

Can a person who has parted from his wife and taken another (the first wife still living) be received as a member into the church?

Ans. He can not be received as a member, unless he puts away the second woman.

A brother from Virginia asked: In case the government should pass a law to remunerate those who had lost their property by the late war, could they as nonresistants and conscientiously opposed to war, receive such remuneration? Ans. They could.

It was asked whether a member of the church could fill the office of supervisor of public roads without violating the principles of a nonresistant Christianity. Ans. It was thought that under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania brethren had better not fill the office. In some other places (as for instance, Canada) it might be filled without violating any commands of the Scriptures. But in all cases great caution is necessary, That we do not transgress the Word of God.

It was further enjoined that church members should not go to shows, parties, and other places of vain amusement. They should not indulge in the fashions of the world—should maintain themselves in a plain, unassuming way and be diligent in the performance of every Christian duty.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at Yellow Creek Church, October 9, 1863

(October number, Herald of Truth, Editorial)

According to our usual custom, the conference for the state of Indiana was held at the Yellow Creek Meeting House on Friday, the 9th of October. Some thirty ministers and deacons were present. There seemed to be the greatest union and harmony of feeling and sentiment among all present. The conclusions of this conference will be given in the next number. The blessing of God seemed to be with us, and we hope much has been accomplished to the honor and glory of God and the good of the church. May the peace of God now rest upon us ever more.

(November number of Herald of Truth)

Proceedings of the conference of Indiana.—Union in the Church of Christ is necessary. Christ prayed for His disciples that they might be one. Christ still prays for His people. He feels and prays for us. We should all be of one mind. The apostles made peace and worked together again when discord and disunion had separated them. A peace conference was held by our own church in 1632 for the purpose of binding up the broken wounds of brotherly love, that had been ruptured for years. Such a conference was necessary then, it is necessary now.

We met together to edify one another, to see if we are yet engaged in the performance of the duties devolving upon us. And now let us each one look to himself. How have I lived? How have I walked? Have I trusted in God and endeavored to walk in love? Perhaps my heart has not been filled with love as it should have been, and I have not been able to accomplish what I desired to do, and thus I may have been myself the cause thereof, because I did not feel what I taught.

We should exercise care that we observe the words of the apostle Peter where he says, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place," etc. II Pet. 1:19. We must take heed that we build on Christ the only true foundation. We must follow Christ in His doctrines and requirements. (There were many more exhortations as found on page 169 and 170 of the Herald of Truth for Nov., 1868.)

After these exhortations, the following is found: As there appears to be a difference of opinion in regard to avoidance of

excommunicated members, it was left for each member of the Church to follow his own convictions in such cases.

There prevails among some of our churches a custom that the young people, on Sunday afternoons meet together in companies and spend the holy hours of the Sabbath day in playing idle games, thus transgressing God's law and desecrating His day. This is a disgrace to the Church and a dishonor to the Christian name, and no church member should allow anything of the kind at his house.

Sunday schools, when properly conducted, were considered beneficial and not out of place.

The conference further agreed to adopt entire the conclusions of the Ohio conference of May, 1868 which were published in the June number of the Herald of Truth.

Copy of Said Conclusions

1. All ministers should exercise care that both in their walk and in the management of the affairs of the church, they be governed by the Word of God.

2. The doctrine of nonresistant Christianity shall in all cases be carefully maintained and observed, not only in regard to taking the sword, going to law, etc., but in our whole walk and conversation.

3. In receiving of candidates for baptism, ministers should exercise care that they do it not too hastily. That they do not baptize them before they become proper subjects for baptism. They must bring forth fruits meet for repentance. They must truly repent of their sins, must experience a change of heart as also of the outward life.

4. In the election of ministers, the attention of the church or congregation shall be called to the fact, and the church shall see that they find men who are discerning, well grounded in the faith, and who are distinguished for pious and virtuous lives. Such men shall then in the fear of the Lord be nominated as candidates who shall be well examined as to whether they are well grounded both in faith and doctrine, after which the required number shall be chosen by lot.

5. If a brother or sister shall marry out of the church it shall be considered not only a transgression against the rules of the church but also a transgression against the Word of God. This they shall acknowledge and confess before they can again be received into the church.

6. In regard as to whether a brother or sister, in case of adultery, may be divorced, it was unanimously agreed that the Gospel gives us no license to take a writing of divorcement. Neither have any right, in such a case to marry again.

7. We must be a people separated from the world. We must take no part in elections. Secret societies must be avoided. Neither should brethren devote themselves to the purchasing and selling of patent rights.

8. Evening meetings, as a custom, should be avoided. When ministers are traveling and where there are aged and infirm persons, it may be allowed.

9. The rule given in Matt. 18:15-18, should be observed in all cases when difficulties between brethren or sisters arise.

10. Every minister should seek to be faithful in the performance of the duties of the office devolving upon him. He should attend to the duties of his own office and not meddle with those of another.

11. Every minister shall endeavor earnestly to maintain and continue to carry out the ordinances of the church as they have been maintained and observed until the present time and not institute any new customs.

12. We acknowledge the eighteen articles adopted at Dortrecht in 1632 as founded upon the Word of God, and that we will seek to retain and maintain the same as our confession of faith and church rule.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 8, 1869

In the Herald of Truth for September, 1869, appears the following: The annual conference for the state of Indiana will be held as usual at the Yellow Creek meeting house in Elkhart County, about ten miles southeast of this place on the second Friday in October, which will be on the 8th of the month.

We hereby extend a cordial invitation to all who desire to attend the same, especially do we hope to see at least of our ministering brethren from all the different states, both east and west, and also from Canada, present with us on this occasion.

For some unknown reason no one seemed to have taken notes for publication. None are to be found in the Herald of Truth.

In our day of rapid transit, it seems odd to read a notice such as given in connection with the directions as to the way to get to the conference. "Should any come on the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne Railroad (now known as Pennsylvania lines) they will stop at Warsaw and there take the stage to Goshen."

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 14, 1870

According to previous appointment, the annual conference for the state of Indiana, met at the Yellow Creek meeting house on Friday, October 14th. A number of ministers and bishops from the several surrounding states were present. The questions

brought before the conference were discussed and decided harmoniously, and brotherly love seemed to prevail among those present.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 13, 1871

The annual conference for the state of Indiana was held on the second Friday in October, at Yellow Creek Meetinghouse. Thirty-seven bishops, ministers and deacons were present. A number of points of considerable interest were brought before the conference, all of which were discussed and decided upon in the spirit of love and Christian kindness.

Sunday schools were considered as good and beneficial when sustained and carried forward according to the principles of the Gospel, and the rules of the Church, and the Testament should be the principal book used in the school.

Brethren and sisters should be earnestly exhorted to marry only in the Lord.

The meeting together of young people for the purpose of spending their time in playing and other vain sports on Sabbath or other days shall be prohibited.

When members remove from one Church to another, they shall take letters of good standing from the Church where they formerly attended.

The marrying of first cousins should be avoided for the reason that in some states the laws of the state prohibit it, and very often nature's laws protest loudly against the marriage of those too nearly related.

Pride in every sense of the term should be avoided, especially among the ministers.

A new conference district was granted for the western brethren. Conference to be held at a time to be hereafter decided upon in Whiteside County, Illinois.

The above is a mere sketch of the principal points brought forward. We have not tried to give a full and complete version for the reason that those who were present have no doubt before this brought the full proceedings before their respective churches. We merely give a sketch of these proceedings for the use of the general reader, and we hope it may be beneficial.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 11, 1872

(November number, Herald of Truth, Editorial)

According to previous announcement the annual conference for the state of Indiana met on Friday morning, Oct. 11, at the Yellow Creek Meetinghouse in Elkhart County, some 10 miles southeast of this place. About twenty-five ministers and deacons were present, six of whom were bishops. The conference was opened by singing and prayer and a number of points relating to the interest, peace and prosperity of the church were discussed. Harmony and good feeling prevailed throughout the meeting and we have reason to believe that it was a source of encouragement and satisfaction to all who were present. The points discussed and decided will be printed on separate slips and each church represented will obtain a copy.

* * * *

Conference of Indiana held at Yellow Creek Meetinghouse, Oct. 11, 1872. There were some twenty-five ministers and deacons present among which were six bishops.

1. How is the passage, James 5:14 understood, literally or spiritually? Ans. The apostle meant natural oil, and if a sick person should request to be anointed by a minister, he should be allowed to comply.

2. Bro. Christian Christophel of Yellow Creek district stated that he desired assistance in his ministerial duties, that the matter had been presented to the church in proper form, and no objections being entered, asked that his request be complied with. Conference consented.

3. A request was made for the appointment of two bishops for the surrounding district, which was considered a long and deeply felt need. The request was granted.

4. A request was made by Bro. Daniel Brundage for the permission to hold a conference in the fall of each year in the state of Missouri. The request was granted. The ministers from that state requested that the first annual conference of the state of Missouri be held on the fourth Friday in October, 1873 and on the same day in 1874.

5. The subject of prayer meetings was then taken up, which was considered a delicate subject to decide upon as we must on the one hand guard against doing anything that would discourage prayer, on the other hand we must take heed that we do not

adopt, teach and follow customs that are not acceptable unto God. It was therefore held by the conference, that according to teachings of the Gospel of Christ it is not required to make special appointments and come together at regular times for the purpose of holding prayer meetings, and that under existing circumstances it is not edifying nor conducive to the peace, unity and prosperity of the Church, and according to the long established practices and customs of the Church it can not be tolerated.

6. C. D. Beery of Michigan, Benjamin Hershey of Missouri and Michael Shank of Indiana were appointed to visit the Church in Kent County, Mich., and endeavor to settle a difficulty which existed there.

7. At the examination meetings each member shall present himself or herself and respond to the inquiries of the ministers, and in case any members are not present, he or she shall be visited previous to the communion and they shall give a reason for their non-attendance.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 9, 1873

There were present, twenty-five bishops, ministers and deacons. The leading discourse was delivered by Bro. George Brenneman.

1. In regard to Daniel Brenneman of whom a report was circulated that he had hired himself to the church at Masontown, Pa., after the manner of the professional preachers for a certain stipulated salary to preach the Gospel to them. The matter was explained, the report proved to be false. The brethren at Masontown simply agreed to pay his debts. The conference found no fault with either party, but advised Bro. Brenneman, under present circumstances not to move to Pennsylvania.

2. In regard to collecting funds and aiding our oppressed brethren in Russia who for conscience' sake are required to leave their homes and seek an asylum of peace in America, the conference accepted the plan proposed in the Herald, and a committee was appointed to receive and pay out the money given for this purpose. J. F. Funk, Isaac Kilmer and Bernhart Warkintin, committee. This committee shall report from time to time through the papers the amount received, paid out, the purpose, and the balance on hand.

3. In regard to assisting brethren who sustain losses by fire, it was shown that great difficulty is experienced in collecting a

sufficient amount to cover such losses. Many give only very sparingly and many do not give at all so that those who suffer such losses obtain oftentimes very little, if any assistance, and some have, for the want of such assistance, insured which so far, has been prohibited by conference. To obviate this difficulty it was proposed that proper arrangements should be made in the different churches and the property of every member valued and the valuation thereof recorded in a book, and when any member in the Church sustains a loss, the amount of the loss is to be appraised by the brethren and then each member of the Church should pay his pro rata of the loss and give to the suffering brother such assistance as may be necessary.

The proposition as above given was adopted on condition that nothing further be done in the matter until it be brought before the conference in Ohio, Illinois and Missouri for their approval, and we herewith add the request that these conferences take this matter into consideration at their next session.

4. Each church should, from time to time, give opportunity to her members to contribute to the poor. For this purpose it was proposed that small boxes be put up on the walls near the door so that every member might have the opportunity, if so disposed, at each time of service to contribute a mite to this purpose. These contributions should be taken care of by the deacon and applied to the aid of the poor as each may have need, and such other purposes as may seem advisable and necessary.

5. To make a business of trading horses by ministers was strongly protested against. We trust that all our ministers will avoid such a dangerous pursuit.

6. Since the decision of conference in October, 1871, that it was not considered proper that cousins should marry together, caused considerable dissatisfaction, that conclusion was so modified that inasmuch as we find no prohibition in scripture against it, each one should act according to the conviction of his or her own conscience, so far as state laws do not prohibit such marriages, as in some this is prohibited by law.

7. If Sunday schools are maintained according to the rules and customs of our church it was thought no objections could be raised.

8. In case of a brother who on account of his walk and conduct or any other reason is not a proper subject for the ministry according to the requirements of the Gospel, and if he receive only one vote as a candidate for the office, what is to be done? Ans. If he is a consistent member, a zealous Christian and well grounded in the faith so that no scriptural objections can be brought against him he should be taken into the lot just the same as though he had more votes. If it is known that he

is not a proper subject for the office, no votes should be received for him at all—the person presenting the vote should be induced to withdraw the vote. In all cases, however, there should be good and scriptural reasons for rejecting such votes.

9. The question was also asked, If a brother is elected and ordained to the ministry and refuses to serve, what is to be done with him? Ans. If the brother does not possess the requirements of the Gospel for that office, the scriptures themselves reject him. If he has the proper requirements and refuses to use his talents to the glory of God, he is not faithful, and an unfaithful servant can not be used in the Master's vineyard.

10. Should we aid and sustain the Bible Society? Ans. Yes, though care should always be observed that it is paid to parties through whom it may reach the proper destination.

11. Members who for a number of years do not go to the communion, seldom come to meeting and give no attention to repeated personal admonitions; should, after the church has fully done its duty in laboring with them be separated from the Church.

12. Sisters who refuse to wear caps according to the old established rule and custom of the church, should be admonished and instructed in these things and be induced to conform themselves to the rules and customs of the church. Conformity to the world should be avoided.

13. Conference, last year, decided that it was right and proper that ministers should anoint the sick when it was requested. It was now requested that a form be given. This was as follows: The oil used shall be olive oil, and shall be applied to the head of the subject, and be done in the name of the Lord according to James 5:14. The scripture referring to this ceremony shall be read and prayer offered according to the same scripture.

14. If a deacon knows that a member of the church has committed a fault, should he go and admonish the member and endeavor to correct the fault of his own accord, or should he wait until some one has complained. Ans. He should go at once. Ministers would rejoice if deacons could so faithfully and effectually keep the peace of the church that neither ministers nor members would even find out the discord and difficulties that occur.

15. When conference makes decisions, they should be observed and maintained as far as possible.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 8, 1874

There were present, twenty-five bishops, ministers and deacons.

BISHOPS

John Shaum, George Brenneman of Ohio; C. D. Beery of Michigan; J. M. Christophel, R. J. Schmidt and Jacob Beidler of Indiana.

MINISTERS

Peter Troxel, Wayne Co., Ohio; Henry Miller, Lagrange Co., Ind.; Michael Shank, St. Joe Co., Ind.; J. J. Weaver, Lagrange Co., Ind.; John Augsburger, Adams Co., Ind.; John Nusbaum, Henry Shaum, Joseph Culverson, Christian Christophel, Martin Kreider, John F. Funk, all of Elkhart, Ind.

DEACONS

C. Steiner, Adams Co., Ind.; George Funk, Owen Co., Ind.; Andrew Bachman, Grundy Co., Ill.; Joseph Holdeman, D. Martin, H. B. Brenneman, Jacob Wisler, and H. Christophel, all of Elkhart Co., Ind.

Opening remarks were made by Bro. Shaum of Ohio. He spoke of God's goodness and faithfulness toward us; of the object of our coming together, namely, that we should remind one another of our duties as ministers in the vineyard of the Lord, the commandments given us by our Savior, etc. After a silent prayer, the bishops counselled together in reference to questions to be brought before conference. After the return of the bishops, an exhortation was given and the forenoon session closed.

The afternoon session was opened by singing, prayer by George Brenneman after which a brief discourse was delivered by C. D. Beery. Remarks were then made by other bishops who all agreed with the preceding remarks. The nonresistant doctrine should not be lost sight of, the brethren should be earnest and faithful in prayer. The eighteen articles of faith adopted several hundred years ago and now held as the exponent of our faith throughout Europe and America teach us peace, kindness, and love and not the use of force, resentment, retaliation or revenge.

1. Granges are represented as something good, and many are deceived thereby and are led away by their deceitful ways. We should be the children of light and can not be members of such organizations.

2. Horse thief detective companies are organizations in which our brethren can not be allowed to take part.

3. The swearing of oaths must be avoided.

4. When young converts are to be received into the Church, they should be properly instructed in the doctrines of the Gospel, not only in outward rules and forms of the Church, but also in the true spiritual life of the soul, etc.

The afternoon session was closed by prayer and singing, "Unsern Ausgang segne Gott."

Friday morning session was opened by singing. Opening remarks and prayer by Bro. Beery.

Bro. Shaum read a letter from the brethren in Lancaster, Bucks and Montgomery Counties advising efforts to a reconciliation in the Church in this county. The letter was written at Souder's Station and signed by Benjamin Herr, Isaac Oberholtzer and Josiah Clemens. Another letter was also read from Bro. J. M. Kreider of Green Co., Ohio, and one from Josiah Clemens of Montgomery Co., Pa. All of these letters advised reconciliation in the church in Elkhart Co. An opportunity was then given to any one who should desire to ask any question.

5. It was considered that members of our church should not take more than legal interest, and the penalty, if a brother transgressed on this point, shall be: he shall pay back the amount exceeding the legal rate and confess his fault.

6. The question arose, Can a brother be admitted to communion who is not willing to observe feet-washing? Ans. He can not.

7. Amish brethren who are of one mind with us, and are of good standing can commune with us.

8. The question was asked whether when only one minister is present at a meeting, the deacon might be asked to perform the opening services. Yes.

9. In regard to shunning each one should observe this matter according to his or her own conviction.

10. Photographs and likenesses should be avoided.

The Herald of Truth for Nov., 1874, speaking in reference to the conference says editorially: All who were present expressed themselves satisfied with the rules, principles and doctrines of the Church and the Gospel, and were willing to abide by and maintain them. Most of the ministers reported that their respective churches were at peace and that arrangements had been made to observe the communion of the Lord's supper.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 7, 1875

Conference minutes as copied in the secretary book show no opening services. Part of an editorial from the Nov. (1875) Herald of Truth gives part of the opening services and are copied here.—Committee.

Conference was opened by singing, Jesu baue deinen Leib. The forenoon was chiefly occupied by a bishop's council. After reading the third chapter of John, remarks were made by several of the bishops, in the course of which the following thoughts, suggestions and admonitions were presented:

"We have met as we have never met before, and probably we shall never thus meet again. We have met to examine ourselves whether we are yet grounded on the true Word of God which the Savior sealed with His own blood. Also to see whether we still stand in love and union, and desire to work together in the work of the Lord. If we have thus met, God will be with us, and bless us, according to His own precious promises."

1. The question considered by the Missouri conference, whether a brother whose wife is a member of another church should be taken into the lot for the ministry, was decided that such brother, if he is a consistent member, and his wife is not inclined to oppose or discourage him in the performance of his duties, it may be permitted but the conference considered it far preferable that the wives of ministers should be members of the Church.

2. If a man who had been a brother should marry a woman who has been divorced from her first husband on account of drunkenness, etc., if he should sincerely repent, could he be received again as a brother? The fact that he had been a brother, having known the requirements of the Gospel as well as the rules of the church on this point makes it a very serious transgression, but if he truly repents and brings forth fruits meet for repentance, he can be received again according to I Cor. 6:9-11. In reference to this matter it may be remarked that the conference, in this case, the woman not being a member of the church, neither her first husband, they were out of Christ and hence under the civil law and being divorced under that law so that she under the law was no longer bound to him, and we are taught that upon true repentance, all sin except blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall be forgiven.

3. If a woman (not a sister) who at one time made an

effort to obtain a divorce, but did not succeed and afterward separated from her husband without a divorce, could she become a sister, and how should she be regarded in reference to her husband? Ans. If it was necessary for her to separate herself from her husband, she may, upon true repentance, be received into the Church, but according to the Gospel we believe we have no right to sue for divorce, and as long as she be not divorced, the law of the land as well as the Gospel bind her to her husband and prohibit her from marrying again (I Cor. 7:10, 11), hence as a sister she should remain unmarried.

4. Can a sister receive her husband's property into her hands (the husband not being a brother) and keep it from his creditors? Ans. A brother would not be allowed to give his property to his wife, so on the same ground a sister could not be allowed to receive her husband's property.

5. Can a brother or sister be considered a member when he or she comes to meeting only occasionally, say two or three times a year and only seldom to communion? Ans. If such members are in good health and have means of conveyance or have no other good reasons for staying away, they would be censurable but we ought to deal with such with a great deal of patience and forbearance, earnestly exhort them and try, by kind words, to awaken them again to a sense of their duty and to a warmer interest in the church.

6. Persons intending to unite in matrimony should be published before the church twice before the marriage ceremony is performed. In some places this custom has been neglected. All ministers present declared their willingness to observe it. A legal license does not obviate this custom, universally accepted.

7. It would be considered out of order for our ministers to unite in marriage persons that are not members of the church.

8. The brethren should not insure their property, but the brotherhood should be encouraged to give liberally to the aid of such as have the misfortune to sustain losses by fire.

9. Neither should brethren have lightning rods, but rather put their trust in God.

10. No brother should be allowed to hold license for selling spirituous liquors, except for medical and mechanical purposes. Members should not frequent drinking saloons. We should avoid every appearance of evil.

11. Musical instruments were not considered as having a tendency to lead to humility but rather to pride and display.

12. We should also use our influence against the practices of hunting, fishing, playing games of various kinds, and other sinful practices on Sundays by our children or those under our care.

13. The centennial fair so much spoken of, is something

which is entirely inconsistent for those professing a plain and non-resistant Christianity to take part in, and it is therefore advised that our people take no part in it neither go there.

14. A General Conference for the Mennonite Church in the United States was recommended.

15. Bro. Speicher reported that it was desired that a minister be ordained in the church at Caledonia, Kent Co., Mich. Granted.

16. It was recommended that the brethren and sisters should not follow nor use their influence to encourage such men who have departed from the true faith and the church, and commenced to teach other doctrines and practices which we can not acknowledge as in accordance with the Word of God.

The conference was conducted in a spirit of love and harmony.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held October 12, 1876

Conference met according to previous appointment, on Thursday, Oct. 12. Twenty-four bishops, ministers and deacons were present. Prayer was offered and after a brief counsel of the bishops present, Bro. Brundage of McPherson Co., Kans., made the opening address in which he referred to the true foundation of our religion, Jesus Christ, according to the words of the apostle, I Cor. 3:11.....He then very forcibly and plainly set forth the duties and qualifications of bishops, ministers and deacons, and also the duties of the church members in general. A strict adherence to the teachings and requirements of the Gospel was enjoined both in ministers and people; pride and worldly conformity should be avoided by all, and earnestly reproved by the ministry. One who has been changed in heart and truly converted to God, can no longer delight himself in the sinful enjoyments of the world in uniting in the practices and habits of an unconverted people.—Editorial, Herald of Truth, Nov., 1876.

1. It was strongly maintained that ministers should, according to the Word of God, teach the same thing, that they should diligently search the Scriptures, and obtain such knowledge of the Scriptures as is needful to understand them, and pray God for wisdom to interpret them according to the spirit of the Word.

2. A very earnest protest was entered against secret societies of every grade: Masons, Odd-fellows, granges, orange lodges, etc. Brethren should not be allowed to take part in them.

3. In regard to those who voted at the recent elections, contrary to the counsel and admonition of our conference and the

church in general, it was decided that they should be admonished not to go again, and every minister should present the subject to his church and seek to impress upon the minds of his people the inconsistency of it and to lead them to walk more circumspectly.

4. It was decided that where a deacon is called to settle a discord or difficulty and can not accomplish his object he shall have the privilege to call a fellow deacon or two from a neighboring church or a couple of brethren to aid him, and that in all cases where it is possible the deacons shall settle all matters of discord and dissatisfaction so that bishops and ministers may keep themselves as free as possible from all blame and not destroy their influence or injure their reputation by being drawn into such difficulties as is often seen. Matt. 18:15-18.

5. All present were willing to abide by, and adhere to, the eighteen articles of the confession of our faith as far as God should give them grace to understand the same. On the subject of shunning, some were not entirely willing to accept it in the strict sense of the word, but all were willing to bear with each other and seek to grow in wisdom and understanding as God may give them light.

6. In reference to the question whether a person baptized by a church that does not adhere to the principles of nonresistance could be admitted into our church without being baptized again, it was decided that if the person was baptized after reaching the age of maturity or upon confession of faith and was satisfied with his or her baptism, and believed that the former baptism had been an answer of a good conscience toward God, they might be so received. If such person should desire to be re-baptized, the request should be granted.

After singing and prayer conference was closed to meet again next year at the usual time. The two days were pleasantly, and we believe, profitably spent in consideration of questions of interest to the welfare and prosperity of our church.....Quite a number of brethren and a few sisters were also attentive listeners to the proceedings; we were glad to see them present.—Editorial from Herald of Truth for November, 1876.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held in Elkhart County, October 11, 1877

Conference in Elkhart County, Ind., was held on Thursday, Oct. 11, 1877. Twenty-two ministers and deacons were present. The conference was conducted in the usual manner and the usual subjects were presented for consideration. Among the special subjects presented:

1. It was urged that ministers should have special regard for the counsel and advice of the Church, and in all their proceedings in church government and other matters the counsel of the church should be taken.

2. In the payment of debts, members should be prompt and punctual. All should try to pay all just dues. When brethren fail and their affairs are settled by law and there are not sufficient means to pay the debts, it was considered a duty in case the unfortunate brother should ever afterwards be able to do so, to pay the balance.

3. In case property is sold under mortgage and is bought by the mortgagee, if the property is really of sufficient value to satisfy the mortgage, but is sold below its value, the brother might, with a good conscience consider himself free from further obligations. If, on the other hand, a brother should buy at forced sale below its real value, to fulfill the requirements of the Gospel, and do as he would be done by, he ought to pay the balance of a reasonable value to the party to whom the property belongs. Brethren should provide all things honestly towards all men.

4. Ministers should always speak the same things according to I Cor. 1:10. That is they should always teach the same doctrine, whether at home or abroad, and whether in private conversation or their public ministration. Likewise all ministers of the same church should seek to be exponents of the same doctrine and the same faith. This, by some, is much neglected.

5. In districts where there is no bishop, the ministers in charge of that church should give their attention to keeping the members under a proper course of discipline and see that they walk in accordance with the requirements of the Gospel and the rules of the church. And when communion services are appointed and a bishop called to serve the church, everything should be arranged beforehand so that when the bishop comes, everything may be found in proper order.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held in Elkhart County, October 11, 1878

All the record of this conference which we can find is an editorial in the November number of the Herald of Truth which is as follows:

Conference in Elkhart Co., Ind., was held at the usual time, the second Friday in October. Thirty ministers and deacons were present. The usual admonitions and instructions were given, and altogether the conference passed off pleasantly and profitably.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 10, 1879

Conference met at the Yellow Creek Church on the second Friday in October. There were twenty-two bishops, ministers and deacons present, among them were bishops, Jacob Hildebrand, Augusta Co., Va., George Brenneman, Allen Co., Ohio and John Speicher of Kent Co., Mich.

Services were opened and the usual discourses on the doctrines and practices of the Church were preached by the bishops, presenting prominently the doctrines of nonresistance, separation from the world, the necessity of parents seeking earnestly to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, the inconsistency of professors uniting with secret societies, the necessity of us denying ourselves of all those things which are contrary to the teachings of the Word of God, and letting our light so shine that men may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

Special testimony was given against brethren going into saloons to drink as it is not a proper place for professors to be found. It shows a bad example, and has led many a man to sin and to a drunkard's grave.

Other points were also presented and all the ministers present signified their determination to be faithful and abide in the long established doctrines and principles of our church. Harmony and peace prevailed and we venture to say that all present spent a day both profitably and pleasantly. May the Lord bless and prosper the work.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 8, 1880

The Indiana Conference was held at the Yellow Creek M. H. in Elkhart Co., Ind., on Friday, Oct. 8. The usual exercises were conducted in the usual form.

The minutes of this conference were not printed in the paper. The above brief account appears under Church News in the November number of Herald of Truth.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 14, 1881

Conference was held at the Yellow Creek Meetinghouse Oct. 14, 1881, and was opened by J. A. Beitler. There were twenty-seven bishops, ministers and deacons present. Remarks were made by George Brenneman, Jacob A. Beitler, and J. M. Christophel, after which the forenoon session closed.

In the afternoon the ministers responded to the remarks of the bishops, reporting in connection therewith the condition of their respective congregations, most of which were reported to be in peace and all expect in due time to commemorate the dying love of Jesus in the communion.

1. Bro. Chr. Augspurger of Adams Co., Ind., requested the brethren, George Brenneman and J. M. Christophel to visit his church and decide a difficulty with which his church had to contend and serve them with communion.

2. Remarks were made by Bro. John Shenk of Allen Co., Ohio, who had just returned in company with George Brenneman from an extended trip through Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. He spoke of the necessity of more earnest work in the interest of scattered members and churches which are inadequately supplied with ministers. The need of more laborers in the vineyard of the Lord was also referred to by Bro. George Brenneman.

3. In regard to that portion of the church known as the "Wisler Church," Bro. Henry Shaum stated that recently one of the ministers of that body came to him manifesting a very earnest desire that some steps be taken toward a reunion of the church, requesting that the subject be presented before this conference and that he would also see that it was laid before their conference which would be held at the same time in Ohio.

The conference received the request favorably, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this conference extend a hearty welcome to that part of the church known as the "Wisler Church," to unite again with the church and are willing to take such steps as may be necessary for a reunion as will not conflict with previous established decisions.

4. The question, "What do we hold as to fairs?" was presented. Ans. Whereas there is much evil connected with fairs, and brethren are made partakers of the evils by attending, Therefore be it,

Resolved, That it is unbecoming and wrong to attend fairs,

and ministers should faithfully warn their members to stay away from them.

After some further discussion with reference to the necessity of doing more to extend the church and preach the Gospel in localities where there is an actual need, conference adjourned to meet again on Monday, Oct. 17, at ten o'clock.

Monday, October 17

Conference was opened again on Monday, the 17th, by singing and prayer after which the following subjects were presented and acted upon.

5. It was advised that ministers should earnestly admonish and invite the impenitent to come to Christ; and some time before the time set apart for baptism and communion, any who desire to be received into the Church should be invited to make application in order to give time for proper instruction before being received. Bro. Beitler read the order to be observed in receiving persons into the church.

6. No bishop should go into another bishop's district and interfere with his work without consulting and advising with the bishop of that district.

7. Ministers in their several churches should properly instruct and prepare their applicants for baptism so that all things may be in order when the bishop comes to receive them and the conference recommends that the instructions to the applicants, when the rules and order of the church are explained should be given publicly--in a public meeting--where the entire congregation may be present.

8. Bro. Beitler asked the conference to grant the privilege of ordaining another minister in the Holdeman congregation. Granted.

9. When a report of a misdemeanor from any one comes to our ears, we should always be convinced that it is true before we receive it as a fact.

10. Bro. Gnagy, by request of Bro. H. A. Miller (the latter being absent) asked the following question: When a man's wife dies and another leaves his wife, will the widower whose wife is dead be permitted to marry the forsaken woman? After considerable discussion this question was laid over until another conference. Another question of similar character was brought before conference and was also laid over.

11. In regard to the work of visiting scattered members and small churches not supplied with ministers, the conference after some consideration adopted the following:

Resolved, That we will try as far as possible to see that all the scattered members and small churches in the conference dis-

trict shall be visited during the present conference year—the ministers in the district to arrange the visitation as may be most convenient.

12. To supply the funds that may be needed by ministers who are not able to defray the expenses of their visits, this conference suggests that each church take a collection every three months or as often as may be deemed necessary.

13. The question whether it would be advisable to adopt a plan by which the brethren might be enabled more effectively to aid each other, and thus bear one another's burdens, in case of loss by fire, was presented to the conference.

The plan was to have a committee in each church which should keep a record of the valuation of the property of each brother. The question was laid over indefinitely.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church, October 13, 1882

Conference was held on the second Friday (the 13th) in Oct., at the Holdeman Meetinghouse. Opening remarks were made by bishop George Brenneman and a silent prayer was offered after which the discourse was preached by Bishop Samuel Coffman of Va., who presented the foundation of our faith and pointed out the duties and responsibilities of the bishops, ministers and deacons and lay members in a very pointed and distinct manner. He referred to God's Word as relating to nonconformity to the world, nonresistance, the evidences of a Christian life and many other points of deep interest to all present.

Further remarks were made by George Brenneman, J. A. Beitler and J. M. Christophel after which conference adjourned until 1 P. M.

In the afternoon session each minister and deacon gave expression to their views of the instruction that had been presented to conference by the bishops. A feeling of universal satisfaction and rejoicing seemed to pervade the entire assembly, and all signified their willingness to labor with zeal in the good cause and abide faithful in the good cause.

Several important questions were presented and acted upon as follows:

1. The subject of aiding each other in case of loss by fire among the brotherhood was presented and discussed, and it was suggested in order to give this question a definite form, that an arrangement or system of collection similar to that which has

been maintained already some twenty years by the brotherhood in Canada be entered. A brief sketch of the plan was then given which the conference accepted and gave permission to the brotherhood to enter into. Bro. Henry Nice of Illinois, however, reserved the privilege of first consulting with his congregation.

2. Another very important suggestion was presented and unanimously accepted by conference. This was to bring about a union with the so-called Wisler party who for a number of years have been separated from the Church. The plan proposed was as follows: That a conference of ministers of both churches in Elkhart County be called who are to meet and arrange and agree upon the terms upon which a reunion satisfactory to both parties can be formed, a record to be kept of all the decisions which are agreed upon, and the same laid before each church by her respective ministers. The church shall consider them and give her decision in a general counsel held for that purpose. If the churches on both sides accept the terms, then the consent of the bishops, still living, who made the decisions of Oct. 17, 1871, and shall receive their approval and acceptance which will, no doubt, make general satisfaction and cause great joy through the entire brotherhood. The Lord grant it. Amen.

Bro. Coffman presented some excellent thoughts in favor of a general conference. After some other questions and remarks, conference adjourned to meet again on the second Friday in October, 1883, at Yellow Creek church and continue till Saturday noon.

There were five bishops, twenty-two ministers and eight deacons present; among those from a distance were, Bishops, Samuel Coffman from Virginia, Henry Nice from Whiteside Co., Illinois, and George Brenneman from Allen County, Ohio. Preachers, Tobias Bowman and Noah Stauffer from Waterloo Co., Ont., and others. The conference was harmonious throughout, and the best of feeling prevailed, and all were encouraged and edified in their faith and work, and we trust that all may indeed redound to the glory of God.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 12, 1883

The Indiana Conference for 1883 met at the Yellow Creek Meeting house on the second Friday in October. There were thirty-one bishops, ministers and deacons present, among them were the brethren George Brenneman, John Shenk and Henry Good of Allen Co., Ohio, John Mosser and C. Zimmerly of the Swiss church in Ritman Co., Ohio, Daniel Rohrer and George Funk of Owen and Clay Cos., Ind., Peter Unzicker of Livingston Co., Ill., A. Ebersole of Whiteside Co., Ill., and David Fretz of Blooming Glen congregation, Bucks Co., Pa. There were also other brethren and sisters present from various other places.

The forenoon was chiefly occupied with the bishops' council. In the afternoon the usual admonitions and instructions were given by the bishops and the ministers expressed their willingness to labor for the maintenance of the doctrines and rules of the church.

A number of questions were presented and discussed. Special reference was made to worldly conformity, display of fineries and personal adornment. These things should not be indulged in by the meek and lowly followers of Jesus. On Saturday forenoon conference continued its work at the same place.

INDIANA CONFERENCE FOR 1884

Held at the Holdeman Church, October 10, 1884

The conference in Indiana was held at the Holdeman Church on the second Friday in October. It was not as largely attended as at some other times; not so many bishops and ministers from a distance met with us as on former occasions, but we had a pleasant, harmonious conference and were made to feel that the Spirit of the Lord was with us.

There were present, three bishops, fourteen ministers and seven deacons. Remarks were made by Bishop Joseph Bixler of Columbiana Co., Ohio, Bishop Jacob A. Butler of the Elkhart District and Bishop Henry A. Miller of Lagrange Co., Ind.

After this all the ministers expressed themselves as being in harmony with our confession and the doctrines and teachings advanced, and willing to abide in the observance of the rules and

ordinances of the Church. The reports from the different districts also showed that the churches generally were in peace, and desired to observe the communion of the Lord's supper.

The duties of the ministers and deacons were set forth; also the manner of dealing with transgressors in accordance with Matt. 18:15-18. Love and forbearance with one another was earnestly recommended; nonconformity to the world should be taught and adhered to with all diligence; members should guard well against being drawn into political excitement now raging to such a great extent throughout the country, etc.

The following resolution was passed: Resolved, That we recommend that brethren do not use tobacco in the house of worship and that we as ministers, at all times use our influence against the use of tobacco.

The subject of having a General Conference was presented and discussed at some length, but was finally laid over for future consideration and no definite action was taken. We trust that other conferences may take up this subject and give it earnest and prayerful consideration.

To the question as to how brethren who make a practice of drinking in saloons shall be dealt with, the answer was given that they shall be admonished to desist from the practice, and, if it becomes necessary, to deal with them as transgressors.

The next conference is to be held at the Holdeman meeting house on the second Friday in October, 1885.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church, October 9, 1885

The Indiana Conference was held at the Holdeman meeting house on the second Friday in October (9), 1885. Seven bishops, fifteen ministers and seven deacons were present. The discourses of the bishops were earnest, interesting and profitable, and all the ministers present expressed themselves in unity with them. A number of brethren from a distance were also present. We trust the excellent admonitions given may, by the blessings of God, bring forth much fruit.

There was nothing new presented except that as a rule of conference, hereafter the bishops shall meet on Thursday afternoon before the day of conference, and all questions to be presented before the conference shall be handed in to them in writing at that time for their consideration.

Copy of editorial in Herald of Truth, Oct. 15 number. Con-

ference in Indiana—At this writing (Oct 8th), a number of brethren have already arrived to attend conference to-morrow. Among them are Henry Yother, Daniel Rohrer, John Speicher, John M. Greider and others. We expect to have a good attendance and trust that the Spirit of divine grace may rest upon all in attendance, and that the work of conference may prove a blessing to the church and redound to the glory of God.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 8, 1886

The Indiana Conference for 1886 was held on Tuesday, Oct. 8th, at the Yellow Creek Meetinghouse. The attendance was quite large, including a number of brethren and sisters from Ohio. Among the bishops present were Joseph Bixler, Michael Horst and George Brenneman of Ohio and Daniel Royer of Clay Co., Ind. Of ministers, there were Jacob Stauffer and Henry Good of Ohio and Christian Wenger and Harvey Friesner of Michigan.

The conference was opened by singing and prayer, after which the 12th chapter of I Cor. was read.

The object of the meeting was stated, and earnest admonitions were given to all to remain earnest, devoted, and zealous in the doctrines of the Gospel and the teachings of the fathers.

The usual points of doctrine, the rules of the Church, etc., were presented by the bishops, and acquiesced in by the ministers and deacons.

The conference was in session both forenoon and afternoon, and closed about four o'clock.

The conference next year will be held at the Holdeman meetinghouse, and will meet on Thursday preceding the second Friday in October at ten o'clock, A. M.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church, October 13, 1887

The annual conference of Indiana, met at the Holdeman Church according to previous appointment on the 13th of October, 1887. The service was opened by singing. Bro. Nice of Sterling, Ill., held a short introductory discourse. He read John 17 and made some comments. A silent prayer was offered.

Bro. Shaum then stated that this day would be used to consider any questions that the members of conference might deem necessary.

Bro. Good of Ohio presented a question sent to the Conference for consideration. The question is whether the Scriptures will allow the Church to receive into membership, a man who was married years ago to a woman who proved an adulteress, and whom he returned to her home and abandoned. He has not heard from her for ten years, and then she was living in the West, and was married. Since this time he had been married to another woman who has since died. It is his purpose to soon marry a sister in the church, and now applies for membership.

Bro. Funk stated that it has been decided in the Indiana Conference that when such come in the spirit of true penitence they can be received, provided they have done such act while they were in the world without Christ and have been divorced from their marriage relations. Bro. Nice followed with statements about the same line. Bro. Jos. Holdeman stated that if we stand upon the articles of our confession the matter is clear.

Bro. Nice stated that the Word does not give us room to reject such. The conference decided that upon true repentance, such may be received into church.

Remarks were made to show that the church can not sanction the giving of divorces where scriptural cause does not exist. The question was also asked whether those who had been married and had separated from their companions, without the scriptural cause, without a divorce, may be received into membership. Other explanations followed to show that those separated without a divorce, if they will neither seek a divorce nor marry again, may be received into membership. I Cor. 6:11.

Bro. Shaum presented the question, Has a minister the right to unite a man and woman, one of whom holds a divorce from a former companion, without a scriptural cause? The question was not answered definitely but the feeling leaned on the negative side of the question.

Bro. Jacob Long asked whether a brother who was ill used, or whose property was taken, had a right to go to law to vindicate himself, or make threats to do so.

Bro. J. Speicher sent by letter a similar letter. Conference showed clearly by I Cor. 6 that we shall not be ready to go to law to vindicate ourselves or to hold our property. The spirit of our nonresistant confession is to "suffer wrong rather than do wrong." But if we are sued at law, or are arrested, we should have the right to answer for ourselves before the law.

Bro. Metzler laid before the conference the case of Bro. Harvey Friesner who is in debt, without a hope of ever getting out. The conference consulted favorably upon his case, to help him and appointed a committee to see after Bro. Friesner's affairs, viz., Bro. William Holdeman of the Yellow Creek district, Bro. Abram Welty of the Holdeman district and Bro. Martin Loucks of the Shaum (now Olive) district.

Remarks were made on the necessity of holding the conference more publicly, so that the whole church might be edified, although some objection was made that confusion will be the result when there are too many together. It was also urged that the instruction meetings should be held in public, which met the approval of the conference.

The church in Kent Co., Mich., sent in a request that they be allowed to hold a yearly home conference in the state of Michigan, which was granted.

What should be done in case of those who do not appear or answer at the counsel meeting? Conference agreed that all such should be visited by the deacons. Remarks were also made concerning the best time for holding the counsel meetings—Sunday or week day. The matter was left to the discretion of each congregation. This closed the proceedings of the first day.

Second Day

Conference was opened by singing. Bro. Miller, after an address appealing to the heart for thankfulness to God, read I Cor. 3. After some remarks a silent prayer was offered.

Bro. Nice then spoke of the importance of the position of the ministry. Great honor is sometimes given to the highest officer in the government, but his position is not so high or so important as that of the minister of the Word of God.

We see that there is a foundation, and we are here to prove ourselves whether we are still standing on this foundation. Brethren, are we standing on this foundation, in the love of Jesus, that the world may know that this spirit of love lives in us?

Man must be directed and acted upon by some other and ex-

terior power—the power of God before he is capable of doing anything.

Disobedience also, which hears the warnings of the minister and then goes out and lives as it suits nature, is destructive to the purity and charity which should reign in the church.

A part of Rom. 14 was read to show that we shall deal charitably. The spirit of the world tends to live according to the spirit of selfishness and the churches are dragged farther and farther away from God until they are almost, if not entirely out in the world.

Musical instruments is one of the things that has been intruding upon the church, little by little, until it is getting a wonderful hold on the church. It originated in Cain's posterity and now it has found its way into the houses of many of the church members.

Bro. Shaum followed, endorsing all the remarks of Bro. Nice. We are set as watchmen on the walls of Zion and must "cry aloud and spare not." We are to labor together in love, that the church may be built up in love. Oh, how can we keep our dear children from all the evils around us? Here are the enticements of fairs, shows, suppers, festivals, celebrations, unions, etc., to lead them away from God.

A resolution was adopted favoring the publication of an English Hymn and Tune book as suggested by the Virginia Conference.

With this closed the proceedings of the conference to meet again at the Yellow Creek Meetinghouse on Thursday preceding the second Friday in October, 1888.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 11, 1888

The conference for the state of Indiana met on Thursday, Oct. 11, 1888, at the Yellow Creek Meetinghouse. Five bishops, seventeen ministers and eight deacons were present. A number of questions were presented and discussed. Unity and harmony prevailed, and we were much encouraged to see a number of the Amish ministers and brethren present and taking part in the work of the Conference.

The question of a general conference was discussed and a resolution passed as follows: "That in order to promote the unity of the Church, make our work more effective and bind the different congregations of the Mennonite and Amish churches, who

stand in the evangelical order of the Gospel closer in the bond of union, we believe that it would be profitable and beneficial to hold a general conference, and we ask the conference of other districts to give expression to their views on this subject at their next meeting."

On Friday the usual conference discourses by the bishops were given. The nonresistant principles of the Gospel were set forth: Worldly conformity, politics, especially the exciting practices which are now so prevalent, as rallies, pole-raisings, conventions, electioneering, etc., and other like things should be avoided by brethren. Neither should they attend fairs, shows, horse-races, theatrical performances or participate in birthday parties, Christmas trees and other vain things.

Matt. 18 should be carefully observed, and in all things a pure, consistent, devoted Christian life should be manifested by all.

A person who does not attend church services regularly, and absents himself from the communion a number of times should be visited, admonished and labored with, that he may be gained. One, however, who is disobedient and will not be reconciled, should, after a proper and earnest effort, be dealt with as the Scriptures direct.

The matter of Bro. Harvey Friesner's financial condition was presented before the conference and according to the report, it was shown that the church in Elkhart raised and paid some four hundred dollars of his indebtedness. Contributions from abroad amounted to one hundred dollars. He, himself, paid about one hundred dollars, so that his indebtedness during the last year has been reduced some six hundred dollars, leaving him still about one thousand dollars in debt, besides the mortgages on his land. And as there are again three hundred dollars due in the bank at Sturgis, it was decided to raise this amount in ninety days, and all who feel to contribute to this amount are earnestly requested to do so, so that the brother may be helped out of his difficulty.

The next conference was appointed at the Holdeman meeting house on the second Friday in Oct., 1889.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church, October 11, 1889

The Indiana Conference was held at the Holdeman Meetinghouse, Elkhart County, Ind., Oct. 11, 1889.

There were present seven bishops (five Mennonite and two Amish), eighteen ministers, and ten deacons, besides a large attendance of members. Some of the ministers and deacons were from Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois.

Bro. John Speicher of Kent Co., Mich., introduced the services by reading I Cor. 3. He followed by remarks and prayer. Bro. Henry Shaum spoke at length about Christ establishing His Church upon earth and choosing His disciples to carry on the work. He also spoke of the duties of bishops, ministers, and deacons.

It is the bishop's duty to watch over the flock, to feed them with the bread and water of eternal life, to baptize converts and receive them into the Church, to give the communion and officiate in the ordinance of feetwashing, to ordain bishops, ministers, and deacons with the counsel and help of the other bishops and ministers.

It is the duty of the minister to preach the Word, and to assist the bishop in caring for the Church.

It is the duty of the deacon to take charge of the public services in the absence of the minister, to sing, pray, and exhort, thereby edifying the Church. He shall look after the peace and unity of the brotherhood, and labor to restore peace when it is lacking. The deacon's duty is, if possible, of more importance than that of the minister.

We are a nonresistant people, suffering harm rather than to do harm. When we become children of God, the Holy Spirit takes such complete possession of us that we can not harbor revenge or violence in our hearts.

We do not swear oaths on any occasion. When we are called to make statements before magistrates we simply affirm or say, Yes, without lifting a hand in appeal to God or answering or signing our names to the words, "So help me God."

As a people, we take no part in politics, or hold offices of Government except when necessary, as weigh master or school director.

Our people should avoid serving as jurymen, and under no circumstances can they serve where capital punishment is involved.

No member can belong to a secret society even if there is a show of good connected with it. The Savior said, "In secret have I said nothing."

In order that we may abstain from all appearances of evil, keep the heart from the love of vanity, and avoid temptation, we do not attend fairs, circuses, races, dances, political rallies, and other worldly gatherings and amusements.

The letter and spirit of the Gospel forbid us to sue at law. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay saith the Lord." See also I Cor. 6:1-8.

Bro. Henry A. Miller of the Lagrange church then spoke of the necessity of holding firmly to the doctrines of the Church for which our forefathers lived, suffered, and died. All the members of Conference then spoke in turn acknowledging the doctrines presented to be in harmony with their faith and practice, and asserting anew their faith in the teachings of God's Word as we have learned it in the past, and by the help of God desiring to teach the same and maintain it in the care and government of the Church. The reports from the various churches showed that they are generally interested in the good cause, and that peace and harmony prevailed.

A number of different subjects were discussed, and a number of profitable talks were given.

A part of the afternoon session was very profitably taken up with talks by the ministers, showing what faults we may fall into by thoughtless or careless habits and ways of speaking. A number of good and useful instructions were given which, if heeded, may prove a great help to the ministers, especially the younger ones, in making their discourses interesting and profitable to the hearers. Conference appointed Yellow Creek Meetinghouse as the place for the next meeting.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 10, 1890

The Indiana Conference for 1890 was held at the Yellow Creek Meetinghouse Friday, Oct. 10. The opening lesson, I Cor. 3:1-15, was read by Michael Horst who also made some appropriate remarks. Silent prayer was offered, after which Daniel Brundage addressed the congregation in German and Henry Shaum in English, setting forth the duties of ministers and deacons. Ministers should not meddle with difficultes between members, but should admonish the brethren and see that Matt. 18 is

strictly observed. Should church difficulties occur, it is in the place of the deacon to see to them.

The minutes of the Ohio Conference were read and special stress put on the extract which reads: Members shall not under any circumstances visit saloons, gambling dens, or games of chance, such as lotteries, etc., attending of shows, fairs, horse races, as these are of the world, and are carried on by men of the world. Fashions and costly array are not to be indulged in by those who have come out from the world; they are to be a separate people. It was also stated that members are not to make assignments of any of their property to any other purpose for the purpose of withholding a debt from the rightful owner. We are to trust God in everything.

The afternoon session was opened by singing after which John Shenk offered some exhortations and led in prayer. Ministers and deacons were than called upon to give their testimony to the doctrines, and state their willingness to teach the same, to which the following bishops, ministers, and deacons responded: Bishops, Henry Shaum, Elkhart, Ind.; John Shenk, Elida, O.; Jonathan Smucker, Nappanee, Ind.; Michael Horst, N. Lawrence, O.; Daniel Brundage, Wakarusa, Ind.

Ministers: C. Wenger, Dutton, Mich.; Jas. Coyle, Fairfield Center, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Shore, Ind.; Menno Cressman, N. Hamburg, Ont.; Tobias Bowman, St. Agatha, Ont.; Moses Brenneman, Elida, O.; P. Y. Lehman, Goshen, Ind.; Noah Metzler, S. West, Ind.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Hawpatch, Ind.; Harvey Friesner, Bronson, Mich.; Amos Mumaw, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jacob Bleile, Nappanee, Ind.; Jos. Miller, Goshen, Ind.; Daniel Brunk, Elida, O.; Jonas Loucks, S. West, Ind.; David Garber, Goshen, Ind.; Samuel Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; Jas. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; Peter B. Snyder, Cullom, Ill.; J. S. Lehman, Dakota, Ill.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; J. S. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.

Deacons: Jacob Z. Kolb, Berlin, Ont.; Tobias Hershberger, Dutton, Mich.; David Martin, South West, Ind.; Fred Geiger, Bluffton, O.; Perry Brunk, Elida, O.; John Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; John Nusbaum, Goshen, Ind.; Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.; Jacob Long, Elkhart, Ind.; Abraham Culp, Wakarusa, Ind.; John Snyder, Cullom, Ill.; Jonas Brubaker, Elkhart, Ind.

Friday's sessions closed with prayer by John Speicher.

Saturday Session

Saturday morning session was opened by singing and silent prayer.

Secret organizations and other unscriptural organizations were

discussed and bitterly denounced, after which the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That no minister or church member shall be allowed to become a member, or in any way support, Farmers' Alliance, Patrons of Industry, or any society of like character, and those who have become members thereof, shall withdraw from them and shall confess a fault before the Church. In case they do not withdraw they shall be held as transgressors until they do withdraw and make full confession. I Cor. 6:14-18.

Resolved, That with regard to petitions for ditches or roads, it is the sense of this conference that we can not make a decision governing this matter, but it is advised that the brethren shall as far as possible refrain from exercising the privileges granted them by law relating to this matter and govern themselves by the spirit of the Gospel and with due respect to the rights of others as well as their own rights and always act in harmony with I Cor. 6:1-8.

The resolution of the conference of 1887 with regard to employing an attorney was referred to and accepted.

Resolved, That when a member makes application to unite with another Church of the Mennonite family having been a member of some Amish or Mennonite congregation, he shall be required to bring a letter of perfect membership or a statement from his Church that he has satisfied all the charges at any time held against him, or showing a scriptural cause for changing his Church home.

Resolved, That a General Conference of the nonresistant faith of the Mennonite family is deemed necessary and will be supported by this conference.

Resolved, That the next conference shall be held the last Thursday before full moon of October, 1891, at the Olive Meetinghouse, Elkhart Co., Ind. Adjourned to meet at appointed time and place.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Olive Church, October 9, 1891

Indiana Conference for 1891 was held at the Olive Church, Elkhart Co., Ind., Oct. 9. The bishops' meeting was held on Thursday afternoon for the purpose of arranging the work for the following day.

Conference was opened about 9 o'clock with singing. Introductory remarks were made and prayer offered by Daniel Brundage. He set forth the rights to hold conference from Acts 15.

Bro. J. S. Coffman was appointed moderator and Bro. J. F.

Funk, secretary. The following bishops, ministers and deacons were present: Bishops, Daniel Brundage, Henry A. Miller, Daniel Royer, Emanuel Hartman, John M. Shenk, John Speicher, Henry Shaum, Fred Mast, D. J. Johns.

Ministers: Jacob Haun, J. F. Funk, Harvey Friesner, Andrew Shenk, Eli Stofer, John Nice, Jonas Loucks, Noah Metzler, Amos Nusbaum, Samuel Yoder, Peter Lehman, David Burkholder, Henry Weldy, J. S. Lehman, Philip Nice, J. S. Hartzler, J. J. Weaver, Amos Cripe, David Garber, Jacob Bleile, Joseph Miller, and J. S. Coffman.

Deacons: Daniel Smith, David Martin, John Nusbaum, James Mishler, Abraham Culp, Jacob Long, Jonas Brubaker, Jacob Wisler, and Daniel Freed.

After prayer Bro. Nice read I Cor. 3 from which he made appropriate remarks, setting forth the principles of the Mennonite Faith and the doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ as taught by Himself and His disciples. Further remarks were made by bishop H. Shaum. After all the ministers expressed their acceptance of the truth presented and their willingness to abide in the same and some further remarks by Bro. Nice, the forenoon session was closed by prayer.

Afternoon Session

Several hymns were sung and H. Nice made some remarks after which the congregation bowed in silent prayer. The questions which had been previously handed in and considered by the bishops were brought before the conference.

Ques. 1. What should be done with members who absent themselves from examination and preparatory meetings to get them to attend?

Ans. They shall be visited and the reason of their absence ascertained. If they have no good reason they shall be admonished and efforts be made to get them to attend.

Ques. 2. If Church counsel is taken and the decision of the Church is unscriptural and justice has not been done to all parties, can anything be done in the matter afterwards? If so, what should be done?

Ans. In case of an unscriptural decision in a certain congregation, the unsatisfied party with the counsel of the bishop shall have the right to appeal to the state conference for an investigating committee whose decision, with the ratification of the congregation shall be final.

Ques. 3. How shall we deal with members who absent themselves from the communion?

Ans. To this question, the answer as given to Ques. 1 will apply, and was adopted.

Ques. 4. It has been the practice of some of the sisters of the Caledonia (Mich.) to wear a veil or a common handkerchief as a covering for the head for the last two years or more without any objection being made, and some have been taken into Church fellowship without wearing the cap but a plain veil. Last fall in his communion sermon, Bishop Speicher, among other things, referred to these sisters who did not wear the cap as a covering, saying that they could take part in the communion if they would agree to wear the cap, say in two weeks. Last spring at our regular counsel meeting, preacher C. Wenger brought up the matter and objected to Bishop Speicher's remarks. Bro. Wenger said that the Scriptures did not call for a cap, but merely for a covering, and that we had no scriptural right to refuse communion or Church fellowship to those who wore a plain covering, other than a cap. It was claimed by others that it was a Church ordinance, and therefore binding. Bro. Wenger claimed that it had never been established even as a Church ordinance by the District Conference of Indiana, and that it was only a tradition brought down from olden times. After debating the question for some time, it was decided to bring it before conference to be decided and settled whether it is a Church ordinance and binding or not. If it is, **what is to be done with those sisters who have been borne with all these years and still persist in not wearing the cap, and also with those who were taken into Church fellowship without the cap?**

Ans. It is the sense of this conference that it is the custom of the Church for the sisters to wear the cap as a prayer head covering, and we expect them to conform to this established custom. Unanimously adopted.

Bro. Nice, in connection with the foregoing, made some very applicable remarks with reference to the brethren frequently not conforming to the custom of wearing plain garments as they should. The brethren as well as the sisters should observe simplicity in dress, and ministers especially should conform to the established custom of wearing plain apparel. It would be unjust to require the sisters only to dress plain while the brethren were allowed to conform to the customs and fashions of the world. Both should do their proper share in preserving plainness and simplicity among our people.

5. In reference to brethren serving as jurymen, Bishop Hartman stated that the last legislature of the state of Illinois made it obligatory upon every citizen to come to the polls and vote, and that jurymen should be chosen who neglected or declined to vote. What should our people do, who from conscious motives decline to vote and also to serve as jurymen? It was recommend-

ed by conference that petitions signed by members of the several nonresistant churches who decline to vote and also to serve as jurymen, should be presented to the next state legislature, praying for a repeal of said law, or at least for such a modification of it as to give nonresistant people the privilege to enjoy that perfect liberty of conscience which the constitution of our country guarantees every citizen.

6. Resolved, That J. F. Funk be appointed to collect in a convenient form the resolutions and decisions of the conferences of the state of Indiana that have been made in their annual sessions as far as they can be obtained. This action was considered necessary from the fact that each year our conference spends much valuable time in considering and making decisions and resolutions that have many times before been considered and decided. (Here the editor of the Herald of Truth inserted the following: "We think that the adoption by a similar resolution would be in place for every conference in the country.")

7. A committee was appointed by the conference to investigate a matter in the Holdeman district in conformity with the decision on Ques. 2.

Decided to hold the next conference at the Holdeman Church on the second Friday in October, 1892.

Reference was made to the decision of conference at a former session that all questions intended for consideration by conference should be written and handed in on Thursday for examination by the bishops. In case that any one should not be able to be present at that time, the question may be sent in by mail or otherwise. This should not be forgotten. Conference was closed by song and prayer.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church, October 13, 14, 1892

On the 13th of October the bishops met to arrange the work for the Conference. The questions which had been handed in for consideration were prepared and numbered.

On the 14th conference met at the Holdeman meetinghouse. The song was followed by prayer by Bro. John Blosser. The following delegates were present: Bishops, Daniel Brundage, Wakarusa, Ind.; Henry Miller, Shore, Ind.; D. C. Amstutz, Marshallville, O.; P. Y. Lehman, Goshen, Ind.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.

Ministers: Samuel Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; Eli Stofer, Hudson, Ind.; J. S. Shoemaker, Dakota, Ill.; John Blosser, New Stark, O.;

J. S. Lehman, Elkhart, Ind.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; Samuel Shank, Broadway, Va.; Jacob Weaver, Shipshewana, Ind.; Amos Mumaw, Wakarusa, Ind.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; David Garber, Goshen, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jacob Bleile, Nappanee, Ind.; Christian Wenger, Dutton, Mich.; Harvey Friesner, Bristol, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, Wakarusa, Ind.; J. S. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.

Deacons: Jacob Kreider, Osborn, O.; David Martin, Wakarusa, Ind.; David Ebersole, Freeport, Ill.; C. Z. Yoder, Weilersville, O.; Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.; Jacob Long, Elkhart, Ind.; John Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; Abraham Culp, Wakarusa, Ind.; John Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; Daniel Freed, Wakarusa, Ind.; Amos Landis, Sterling, Ill.; Jonas Brubaker, Elkhart, Ind.; Eli Brunk, Harrisonburg, Va.

J. S. Coffman was chosen moderator and John Blosser, secretary with J. S. Lehman as assistant. The scripture lesson, I Cor. 3 was read by P. Y Lehman and after he had made some appropriate remarks, he was followed by J. F. Funk. They urged unity and more zeal and thorough work. Daniel Brundage and Henry Miller also made some remarks. After prayer by J. S. Shoemaker, and the congregation singing the doxology, conference adjourned for the noon hour.

Afternoon Session

Conference met again at 1 o'clock. Prayer by David Burkholder.

Ques. 1. At funerals, when the weather is favorable and the family gives its consent, we advise that the remains be taken outside of the house to be viewed in order that the people may pass out on both sides of the coffin to save time. We also advise that where our brethren act as pallbearers, they do not wear badges as is now customary among the world, also that at funerals the brethren do not wear their hats in the house of God, and moreover, in preparing meals at funerals we also advise simplicity at the table. Funerals should not be made occasions for feasting, but simply to supply food for the sustenance. Likewise on Sundays when entertaining company the same rule should be observed. This was put in the form of a resolution and was adopted.

Ques. 2. When a person desires to unite with the Church, who is a member of a life insurance company, and whose withdrawal would cause a financial loss, what course should be pursued?

This question called forth considerable discussion, and finally the following resolution was passed: Life insurance never has been allowed by any of our conferences, and we are taught by the

Word of God that, for the cause of Christ, we should be willing to give up all. Luke 14:13. Adopted.

Ques. 3. When persons desire to marry, one of whom is a member of the Church, the other not, but promises to unite in church membership, or when neither are members, but both promise to unite with the Church (the marriage ceremony being in the order of the Church) shall the bishop be allowed to unite them in matrimony?

After considerable discussion this question was laid aside, but the idea was expressed, and found universal acceptance, that the work of the Church should be to instruct our young people faithfully from their early youth in the principles of our faith and use every proper means for winning them to Christ and the Church as soon as they come to years of understanding so that when they desire to marry we will not be required to draw up a conference resolution to suit a case and condition that may have been brought about by the inactivity of the Church. It was the sense of the conference to adopt a resolution that to favor the above process would be beginning at the wrong end to correct an evil. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

Ques. 4. The marriage subject as taught in the Scriptures is by many very imperfectly understood, therefore be it,

Resolved, That our ministers preach on this subject occasionally and thus bring before their congregations what the Scripture teaches in reference to marriage. Adopted.

Resolved, That ministers consider well their position and keep themselves in the order of the Church and the teaching of the Scripture in their personal appearance in their garments, manners, and their teachings. They should study well the Scriptures as the apostle directs and take good heed to their walk and conversation. They shall also give heed to the doctrine, study the confession of faith, and teach the Word of God and the doctrines embodied in the confession of faith. Adopted.

Resolved, That any brother or sister who shall neglect to come to the communion without a proper excuse for a period of two years, shall not be entitled to vote in any counsel of the Church. Adopted.

Ques. 5. What means shall we adopt to secure ministers for churches where they have none and where there is no material from which to ordain one, or to aid churches where the ministers are not strong enough to lead the congregation?

Resolved, That faithful ministers should be sent from districts where they can be spared to labor in churches where the ministerial force is weak or where there are no ministers to care for

the flock. Ministers who can be spared should seek out places where they are needed. The Churches that have able material should ordain such to the ministry even when they would not need them directly in the congregation. Adopted.

Whereas there is need of more ministerial help, be it,

Resolved, That a minister be ordained in each of the following districts: Clinton, Shore, Salem, and Olive, also that a deacon be ordained at Elkhart.

Inasmuch as marriage is held by the Church, and in our discipline as an institution of the Lord, it should always be entered upon with prayer and in the fear of the Lord, therefore we encourage the maintenance of a former custom of performing this ceremony in the public meeting in the Church. Adopted.

Ques. 6. Is it advisable for a minister who is not conformed to the principles and order of the Church to travel and preach?

The answer to this question was partly embodied in a former resolution, so the answer adopted was:

Resolved, That our ministers conform to the order of the Church in their apparel and in every way so that they may be a light to the Church wherever they may be, and that the members do likewise.

Ques. 7. Can it be called a Church counsel when a matter is brought before the Church before it is investigated and where some of the members only find fault, and demand a confession; or must the matter first be investigated and then brought before the Church before counsel is taken? When a case like this exists, shall it be binding?

This question awoke considerable comment, in which the following thoughts were presented: Our examination or counsel meetings should be differently conducted than they generally are. It is not a place where one member may go to pour out privately to the ministers and bishop the real or imaginary faults of another member. The other member should not be made to feel that he is being whipped around the pillar without having first had an opportunity to explain his course or his position to his fault-finding brother. The counsel meeting should be a place where every member can go cheerfully and testify that he or she is still willing to press forward and help in the work and thus encourage their ministers in their work. Let no brother or sister make the counsel meeting a place for faultfinding. Adopted.

Resolved, That in every case a matter must first be investigated. It shall then be presented to the Church and counsel be taken in proper form; otherwise it can not be binding. All matters between members must be adjusted before counsel meeting in the district to which they belong.

Resolved, That the next annual Conference be held at the Shore Church, Lagrange County, Ind., on the second Friday in October, 1893.

After closing prayer and a song, conference adjourned.

John Blosser, Secretary.
J. S. Lehman, Asst. Sec.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Shore Church, October 12-14, 1893

The Indiana Conference for 1893 was held at the Shore Church, Lagrange County, Ind., Oct. 12-14. The bishops' meeting was held on the afternoon of the 12th to arrange the questions and other work for the conference.

Friday Forenoon

The devotional exercises were conducted by Bishop Michael Horst, who read 1 Cor. 3, offered some remarks, and led in prayer.

Bro. J S. Coffman was appointed moderator and brethren J. S. Lehman and A. B. Kolb, secretaries.

Bishop J. M Shenk addressed the large assembly of bishops, ministers, deacons and lay members, stating the object of the meeting. He tried to impress upon his hearers the importance of regeneration and the spiritual life and of obedience to all the commandments. Bro. J. F. Funk addressed the audience, limiting his remarks largely to the ministry. Bishop P. Y. Lehman also made some appropriate remarks. He was followed by Bishop John Speicher.

Bro. J. F. Funk then offered some resolutions which a committee previously appointed had compiled. Committee, Emanuel Hartman, Washington, Ill., J. M. Shenk, Elida, O., and J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind. A number of ministers then gave testimony to the addresses of the bishops, and reported the condition of their congregations. This occupied part of the forenoon and part of the afternoon session. The opening prayer for the afternoon session was offered by Bro. J. M. Shenk. Those taking part in this conference were:

Bishops: H. A. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; Michael Horst, N. Lawrence, O.; John Speicher, Logan, Mich.; J. M. Shenk, Elida, O.; P. Y. Lehman, Goshen, Ind.; J. Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.

Ministers: Michael Shank, Terryton, Kans.; Henry L. Shelley, Oregon, Ill.; D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; Samuel Yoder,

Elkhart, Ind.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; Noah Metzler, S. West, Ind.; J. J. Weaver, Shipshewana, Ind.; J. S. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; John Hygema, Wakarusa, Ind.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; Daniel Smith and Eli Stofer, Hudson, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jacob Bleile, Nappanee, Ind.; David Garber, Goshen, Ind.; J. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; Chris. Wenger, Dutton, Mich.; Jacob Christophel, S. West, Ind.; Amos Mumaw and Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Noah Stauffer, Strasburg, Ont.; Harvey Friesner, Bristol, Ind.; Amos Cripe and J. J. Troyer, Emma, Ind.; Isaac Weaver, Bowne, Mich.; Eli Bontrager and Eli Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.

Deacons: Jacob Long and D. H. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; Jacob Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; J. G. Wenger, Harper, Kans.; John Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; Manasseh Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.; Jas. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.

After some further remarks by the bishops, the questions were brought before the congregation for deliberation.

The matter of Sunday School Conference was referred to the annual conference of Ohio, to be held in 1894.

Ques. 1. Who constitutes the ruling power of the Church? Is it the bishop, the minister, or one or more of the brethren, or does the whole Church, including bishops, ministers, deacons, and lay-members constitute it?

Ans. The ruling power lies in the ministry and laity combined.

Afternoon session closed with prayer by Bro. David Burkholder.

Saturday Morning Session

Conference was called to order at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. Samuel Yoder.

Ques. 2. What shall be done with members who publicly acknowledge themselves backsliders?

Ans. Every reasonable effort should be made to reclaim such, and if all efforts fail, they should be given over to the Church.

Resolved, That no minister from another denomination be received into our Church as a minister without the consent of the Conference and the congregation in which he resides. He shall also be well examined as to his faith and whether he fully agrees with us in doctrine and discipline.

Ques. 3. What way or manner of holding counsel or examination meetings does this conference advise in order that every brother and sister may be able to answer for themselves concerning the interest of the Church without being opposed by some

other brother or sister? Several ideas were presented a few of which are as follows: Counsel meeting is not the place to bring in complaints. It should be the place to confess peace. If we obey Matt. 18, faultfinding and complaining of others will not have a place. Some confess peace but are not fully satisfied. Some defer all their difficulties until counsel meeting. **If we are not allowed to bring up our complaints at Counsel meeting, where shall we bring them?**

Ans. There is another time, place, and way given for the bringing of complaints. Matt. 18.

Resolved, That when dissatisfaction or difficulties exist between members they shall seek reconciliation at once according to Matt. 18:15. If they can not be reconciled they shall report to the deacon before the time for counsel meeting. At the counsel meeting every member should express peace.

Ques. 4. Since the manner of some bishops in receiving into Church fellowship, members from other denominations is not satisfactory to all, what form of procedure does this conference advise so that difficulties and misunderstandings may be avoided?

Resolved, That this conference advises that the person who is dissatisfied shall go to such bishop and adjust the matter with him personally. Persons being received from other denominations shall be received as nearly as circumstances will permit in accordance with the form prescribed in the Minister's Manual.

Ques. 5. Is it the duty of the laity to admonish a brother or sister concerning anything about which they may be dissatisfied but which does not come under the head of public transgression before bringing it to the minister or deacon?

Ans. The unanimous answer of conference was "Yes."

Resolved, That the ministers and deacons shall visit, read, and pray with all the members of their congregation, and as many of the unconverted families in their district as possible at least once a year.

Ques 6. How much importance does this conference attach to members being prepared for the communion, and how much guilt rests on a member who neglects to partake of communion without lawful excuse?

Resolved, That communion should be observed regularly in commemoration of the death of Christ. Those who neglect it neglect one of the most important commands of the Savior.

Ques. 7. Should a bishop moving into another district have equal rights with the resident bishop, or should he be under the resident bishop's direction? Should such bishop, in good standing, and without Church counsel, be recognized as a bishop, or must he be formally acknowledged as a bishop by conference?

Resolved, That if he come in good standing he has equal rights, but he should under all circumstances work in harmony with the bishop or bishops there. He may be recognized on his letter or the testimony of the congregation from which he comes.

Ques. 8. What can be done to supply congregations which are without ministers when there is no material for minister in the congregation to select from?

Ans. See past 48, question 5.

Resolved, That in voting for minister or deacon, those voting should be sure that the candidates have the proper qualifications.

Resolved, That ministers are advised, in dress, conduct, and manners as well as in conducting the services, to conform to the customs and practices of the Church. That the brethren, also, are advised not to conform to the world in dress, especially in wearing cuffs and stand-up collars. The sisters shall likewise adhere to plainness and simplicity in accord with the rules of the Church.

Resolved, That this conference considers it unbecoming and quite inconsistent with the spirit of the Gospel and the teachings of our Savior for members to go into saloons and drink, play pool, cards or throw dice, and play croquet, etc. Our time is the Lord's and it would be much more to the glory of God and much more beneficial to ourselves to employ our time in the study of the Bible and the promotion of practical piety in our hearts.

Ques. 9. Our conferences have always held that members shall not attend fairs and our people have been admonished and warned not to go. Still there are some who go, and are an offense to many. How shall we deal with them?

Resolved, That they shall be admonished not to go, and if they are not obedient they fall under Church censure.

Resolved, That the next conference be held at the Yellow Creek Church, Elkhart Co., Ind., the second Friday of October, 1894.

Conference was closed by song and prayer.

J. S. Lehman,
A. B. Kolb, Secretaries.

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 11, 12, 1894

Conference for 1894 was held at the Yellow Creek Church, Elkhart Co., Ind., Oct. 11 and 12, the bishops meeting and arranging the questions sent in. During that time the ministers assembled in the Church and admonished each other to edification.

Thursday Afternoon Session

Conference proper opened in the afternoon. Bro. J. S. Coffman was chosen moderator, and brethren J. S. Hartzler and A. B. Kolb, secretaries.

Bishop E. Weber of Berlin, Ont., conducted the devotional services, reading 16 verses of Eph. 4, and making some very timely comments. After prayer the questions were taken up, the resolutions of which were deferred until next morning.

The afternoon session was closed with prayer by E. Hartman.

Friday Forenoon Session

Conference was called to order at 9 A. M. Bish. J. N. Durr read I Cor. 3 and led in prayer. The following were present:

Bishops: J. M. Shenk, Elida, O.; E. Witmer, Berlin, Ont.; M. Horst, N. Lawrence, O.; J. N. Durr, Woodside, Pa.; J. P. Smucker, Nappanee, Ind.; J. Burkholder, E. Lewistown, O.; J. Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.; E. Hartman, Washington, Ill.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; J. Nice, Morrison, Ill.; D. J. Johns and P. Y. Lehman, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers: J. S. Coffman and Samuel Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Topeka, Ind.; J. S. Shoemaker, Dakota, Ill.; J. Blosser, New Stark, O ; J. K. Brubaker, Rohrerstown, Pa.; J. J. Weaver and Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; John Garber and David Garber, Goshen, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, John Hygema, Amos Mumaw and Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; J. H. McGowen, Jacob Bleile, and David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; J. W. Christophel, Noah Metzler, S. West, Ind.; J. Kreider, Wadsworth, O.; John McCulloh, Morrison, Ill.; A. S. Cripe, Emma, Ind.; D. S. Brunk, J. Horning, Moses Brenneman, Elida, O.; D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; M. S. Steiner, Canton, O.; C. P. Steiner, Cranberry, O.; Philip Nice, Sterling, Ill.; David Hostetler, Weilersville, O.; Harvey Friesner, Bristol, Ind.; Eli Stofer, Hudson, Ind.

Deacons: Jacob Harshberger, Dutton, Mich.; John Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; Martin Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; D. H. Coffman, Jonas Brubaker, Jacob Long, Elkhart, Ind.; C. Z. Yoder, Weilersville, O.; J. Z. Kolb, Benj. Shoemaker, Berlin, Ont.; J. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.; Henry Nice, Morrison, Ill.; A. Culp, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.; Perry Brunk, Elida, O.

Bishop J. M. Shenk delivered the conference sermon, in which he referred to the new birth, Divine nature, separation from the world, consecration, nonresistance, experimental religion, the need of getting saved first and then working for the Lord.

Bishop Weber followed in the German language, emphasizing the need of more fervent work in spreading the Gospel. He ad-

monished the brethren to be careful when giving their views on questions discussed, to be sure that God's word was the basis of the opinion presented and not their own desires.

The other bishops, ministers, and deacons then gave their testimony to the thoughts presented. It was cause for thankfulness to God to note that all could testify to the truths presented, and how the large congregation gave its endorsement by standing to their feet.

Friday Afternoon Session

After prayer the following questions were presented and resolutions were adopted.

Ques. 1. Can a minister whose ordination was not in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel be taken into the lot for bishop?

Ans. No, neither can such an one be allowed to serve the Church as minister.

Ques. 2. What shall be done with a sister who refuses to wear the prayer head covering because her husband who is unconverted is strenuously opposed to it?

Resolved, That such sister and her husband be visited and prayed with to abide by the Word and to obey God rather than man. If she will not then obey she shall be dealt with accordingly with the counsel of the Church.

Ques. 3. When any question or topic is brought before conference and considered, but upon which no action is taken, shall the sentiment of the conference on the topic or topics considered, be published in the conference report?

Resolved, That such sentiment be not published in conference minutes.

Ques. 4. Is it consistent for our members to take part in Christian Endeavor Societies or Epworth Leagues, etc.?

Resolved, That inasmuch as the great majority of those who participate in these societies and leagues do not live up to the plain, simple teachings of the Gospel we consider it inconsistent for any of our members to unite with them. It is not consistent for us to encourage any organization in which both the organization and the individuals composing it are not in harmony with the simple teachings of the Gospel. But it is every Christian's duty to encourage anything that is conducive to practical piety. To this end we recommend that our members engage actively in such earnest Christian endeavor in the Church as will result in true consecration to God and the upbuilding of His kingdom. The work of the members should be in the Church and they have no need of any organization outside of the Church.

Ques. 5. Is it consistent for our members to be members of the Y. M. C. A. where checkers, chess, and other like games are held out as inducements for members and entertainment?

Ans. No, neither are these things consistent in Christian homes.

Ques. 6. Would this conference sanction the choosing and ordaining of brethren who have the necessary qualifications, who are sound in faith, humble in mind and spirit, and of an unblameable life to the ministry except by lot?

Resolved, That the ordination of ministers by lot or the united voice of the congregation is in accordance with the Scriptures and is accepted as such.

Ques. 7. Is it in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel and the epistles to condemn an action or movement of any kind, the object of which is to advance the cause of Christ without giving the matter in question a full investigation? (Scripture references.)

Resolved, That it is not evangelical.

Ques. 8. Are Sunday School Conferences, when conducted by Sunday school workers, with the aid and counsel of the ministry, a benefit to the cause of Christ when conducted for the same purpose for the Sunday school as our Church conferences are held for the Church?

Resolved, That Sunday school conference is beneficial when conducted in accordance with the conditions mentioned in the foregoing question. The programs for such conferences to be subject to the supervision and approval of the Church Conference in the district in which such conference is to be held.

The closing remarks and prayer were offered by John Burkholder, and conference adjourned to meet, the Lord willing, on Thursday before the third Friday in October, 1895 at the Olive Church, Elkhart Co., Ind., bishops to meet on Thursday morning to arrange questions, etc., for Conference in the afternoon. Conference was largely attended, Christian charity prevailed, and we hope the work done will work the upbuilding of the Church. The visitors felt deeply grateful for the hospitality of the Yellow Creek Congregation in supplying the wants of man and beast. The Lord reward them in temporal and spiritual blessings.

J. S. Hartzler,
A. B. Kolb, Secretaries.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Olive Church, October 10, 11, 1895

(Note. This is the first that the name, Michigan, appears in the name of the conference. Nothing appears in previous minutes to show that the change was made by an act of conference.)

The Indiana-Michigan conference was held at the Olive Church, Oct. 10 and 11, 1895. The bishops met at 10 o'clock to arrange work for conference proper.

Conference proper opened at 1 o'clock P. M. Devotion was conducted by Bro. P. Y. Lehman. Appropriate remarks were made by several of the bishops.

Bro. J. M. Shenk was elected moderator and J. S. Shoemaker and J. S. Coffman, secretaries. After passing a few resolutions, and closing prayer by J. S. Lehman conference adjourned for the day.

Friday Forenoon Session

Conference was opened by Bro. John Burkholder who read Phil. 2:1-16 and led in prayer. The moderator's sermon was based on Matt. 7.24; I Cor. 3:10, 11; and Ezek. 33. Important points emphasized: Being living stones, using every opportunity to bring souls to Christ, nonresistance, being Christ-like, nonconformity to the world, separation from the world, etc.

Bishops, ministers, and deacons gave personal testimony to the thoughts presented and expressed a willingness to live and teach these principles. The congregation expressed itself in harmony with the thoughts presented by a rising vote. Forenoon session closed by prayer by Bro. J. F. Funk.

Friday Afternoon Session

Prayer by Bro. J. S. Coffman.

Ques. 1. When a report is circulated about a brother or sister that would, if true, bring censure of the Church, and it becomes necessary to send the deacon to investigate the matter, what is the Scriptural course to pursue; should the accused be visited or should the deacon make inquiry only of others and pass the accused by?

Ans. The accused should under all circumstances be seen first. If he acknowledges it, further investigation is unnecessary. If he should deny it and there are strong reasons to doubt his word, then further testimony may be sought for. To this we would add: This conference advises and admonishes every brother and sister to be very careful not to circulate any reports whatsoever, true or

false, that are in any way detrimental or injurious to the reputation of a brother or sister. True charity will under all circumstances direct them to speak to the party involved.

Ques. 2. Is it ever right to condemn or expel a member before the accused is brought before the accuser and given a chance to answer for himself?

Ans. An accused member should never be condemned until he fully understands what action has been taken. An offending member should never be expelled, no matter what evidence is against him until he has been allowed to answer for himself concerning his accusation.

Ques. 3. Is it scriptural for the deacon, in a case as presented in No. 1, to tell individual members and even persons who are outsiders what they have found concerning the accused, before the day of hearing before the Church?

Ans. The deacons have no right to tell it to any one unless it be the minister or bishop who is interested in settling it.

Ques. 4. Is it proper for ministers or brethren or sisters to speak of difficulties, evil reports, or mistakes after such have been settled?

Ans. It is decidedly wrong, and persons persisting in it will fall under Church censure.

Ques. 5. Should our ministers acquaint themselves better with the fundamental principles of the Christian religion in order that they may be better qualified to go forth as teachers and not merely as preachers?

Ans. Our ministers should be encouraged to study the Bible more zealously and prayerfully in order that they may have a better understanding of the Word, and bring the truth more vividly before their congregations.

Ques. 6. Does the Bible teach that the attainment of holiness is gradual, or is it a blessing that we attain to at once?

Ans. The Word teaches sanctification through the atoning blood of Christ, and that we grow in sanctification unto the perfection which is in Christ.

Ques. 7. What can be done in Church districts where there is no minister to lead the flock and seemingly no material from which to ordain?

Ans. The former resolution concerning this question was adopted. Page 48, 5.

Resolved, That we endorse and commend the resolution adopted at the special conference held in Chicago, the 26th day of May, 1895, concerning the management of organized mission work of the Mennonite Church.

(We are informed by Dr. W. B. Page, now of Goshen, Ind.,

who was at the Chicago Conference that it was composed of brethren from east of Chicago who were on their way to the Illinois Conference to be held at Cullom, Ill., and the workers at the Mission, and several brethren who were attending school in Chicago. The leading question was, "Shall the Mission be closed or not?" As yet, no conference had recognized the mission, and funds were running low. A resolution was passed asking that the work be continued, and that some of the conferences near by be asked to recognize it. Brethren, A. I. Yoder, S. F. Coffman, and W. B. Page were sent to the Cullom conference with the result that the resolution was approved and the mission was encouraged to continue. The resolution of the special conference with a letter of explanation was then sent to the Indiana-Michigan Conference, hence the foregoing resolution.—Compiling Committee.)

Closing prayer for the afternoon session by J. Kurtz.

Bishops present: J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; P. Y. Lehman, Goshen, Ind.; Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.; John Burkholder, E. Lewistown, O.; J. M. Shenk, Elida, O.

Ministers present: Amos Mumaw, Henry Weldy, Jonas Loucks, John Hygema, Wakarusa, Ind.; J. S. Coffman, J. S. Lehman, Elkhart, Ind.; David Burkholder, Jacob Bleile, Nappanee, Ind.; Jacob Christophel, Noah Metzler, South West, Ind.; Eli Stofer, James Coyle, Hudson, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Jacob Weaver, Shipshewana, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Emma Ind.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; C. B. Brenneman, Elida, O.; Christian Hauder, Cullom, Ill.; J. S. Shoemaker, Dakota, Ill.; Peter Keim, Logan, Mich.

Deacons present: Jonas Brubaker, Jacob Long, D. H. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; Abraham Culp, Wakarusa, Ind.; J. H. Bare, Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.; John Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; John Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; J. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.

Next conference to be held at the Holdeman Church, beginning the third Thursday in October, 1896.

J. S. Shoemaker,
J. S. Coffman,
Secretaries.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church, October 8, 1896

Conference met at the Holdeman Church, Oct. 8, the bishops' counsel taking up the forenoon session. J. F. Funk, was chosen moderator and J. S. and S. F. Coffman, secretaries. The moderator was called away to preach a funeral and the conference sermon was preached by Bro. I. J. Buckwalter using I Cor. 3:11

as a text. The sermon was edifying, impressive, and appreciated. Other bishops added some good thoughts.

Bishops present: I. J. Buckwalter, Michael Horst, Orrville, O.; P. Y. Lehman, D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.; Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind. (after funeral).

The following ministers and deacons bore testimony to the sermon and to the doctrines of the Bible: Samuel Yoder, Jacob Shenk, J. S. Hartzler, J. S. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; Henry Weldy, John Hygema, Amos Mumaw, Jonas Loucks, Wakarusa, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Emma, Ind.; Jacob Bleile, David Burkholder, J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; M. S. Steiner, Cranberry, O.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; Noah Metzler, J. W. Christophel, South West, Ind.; J. J. Weaver, Shipshewana, Ind.; Chris. Dettweiler, Brutus, Mich.; David Garber, Orrville, O.; Harvey Friesner, Bristol, Ind.; S. F. Coffman, Vineland, Ont.

Deacons: J. C. Driver, Rice, Mo.; Jacob Long, D. H. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; John Bare, Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.; Abraham Culp, Wakarusa, Ind.; John Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; J. R. Loucks, Scottdale, Pa.; Peter Blosser, Harrisonburg, Va.

All members present expressed their desire to remain faithful to God, and to abide steadfast in the doctrine they profess, by a rising vote.

The ministers gave a report of the congregations which they represent. Not all the congregations were represented. In the main the reports were very encouraging. All represented were reported as being in peace generally, and nearly all have had additions. 135 were reported as being added to the congregations represented.

Ques. 1. What is conference? What is its object? Wherein lies the governing or ruling power, and who should obey the decisions?

Ans. From Acts 15 we learn that conference is an assemblage of persons met to confer with one another that they may arrive at proper conclusions. There was lack of understanding and the object was to come to unity of opinion and action. It is still the same. The Church, through God, is the ruling power. Decisions of conference are valid and can be enforced only when they are accepted by the Church as a body. They should be obeyed by all members, first, by the members of conference which made the decisions, and then by the body which accepts them.

Ques. 2. What are some methods or ways of presenting truths that are of advantage to ministers in their discourses?

Ans. The minister should use simple language so that the young and inexperienced may be edified. He should place the feed so low that the lambs can get it. Speak so that his most distant

hearers can understand him. Should not speak in such a high tone, nor so loud that it becomes unpleasant to hear him, yet he should be earnest. He should study to show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. He should do this by presenting his discourse in an order that impresses the hearer so forcibly that he can scarcely forget it. Much precious truth is told in such a scattering and disorderly way that very little can be remembered. He should present all mankind as sinners by nature, needing a Savior. Touch people's pet sins and they will be interested at once. Afternoon session closed.

Friday Morning

Devotional services by Bro. Horst.

Ques. 3. Is this conference favorable to a General Conference and is this conference willing to take steps toward its organization?

Ans. The idea of having a General Conference was approved and Bro. David Burkholder was appointed as committeeman to work with others appointed by several other district conferences, looking to such conference.

The following resolution, sent in by the M. E. & B. B. was read: Resolved, That we, the members of the M. E. & B. B. do petition and request that the work done at the annual meeting of said Board held in Elkhart on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1896, be considered by this conference as the incorporating of said organization so that the result may be a perfect harmony between the Church Conference and the M. E. & B. B. and the highest possible good for the cause of Christ and the salvation of souls. In answer, conference passed the following resolution: Resolved, That the Mennonite Evangelizing and Benevolent Board should be encouraged to go on with the work in the fear of the Lord, also that conference sanctions the incorporation of said Board, but as to its workings, that it be referred to a later meeting of conference.

Another resolution from said Board: Resolved, That this Board reaffirm the resolution adopted at the annual meeting of 1894 which reads as follows: Resolved, That this Board urge upon our ministers and bishops the great need of more men to labor in the evangelizing field, and that in accordance with our Savior's commission, and the action of our brethren in conference at Augsburg in the sixteenth century, our Amish and Mennonite bishops coöperate in finding and ordaining men specially qualified for this work that the home congregations may be properly cared for and a force of men be kept in the field continually to do

evangelizing work and that we urge that our ministers in every organized congregation preach a sermon on the need of having laborers in the field, and to acquaint themselves and people with the needs. This was answered by the following resolution:

Resolved, That we appeal to the congregations to continue their efforts to carry out the resolution passed in 1894 relative to securing ministers to labor in the evangelizing of the field.

Ques. 4. Would this conference advise the ordination of a minister in the Nappanee Congregation?

Ans. Yes, with the approval of the bishop and the ministers and the consent of the congregation.

Ques. 5. Since some are willing to discard the sisters' prayer head-covering and, Since there are so many outside influences brought to bear on our people to lead them away from the teachings of the apostle on this subject, what position should our bishops and ministers take on this question?

Ans. The apostle Paul teaches very distinctly (I Cor. 11) that the Christian woman, in order to show her position as a faithful, obedient, God-fearing woman, acknowledging the man as her head, and Christ as the head of man and also of the Church: she should have her head covered in accordance with the apostle's teaching, and since the Scriptures have for centuries, in our Church as well as in a number of other denominations, been interpreted to mean a plain covering similar to that worn by our sisters at present, we can not, without violence to the Word of God, give our people any other teaching on this subject than that which our Church has held in the past, and now holds. And in order to do our duty as faithful ministers of the Gospel and overseers of the Church, we can only recognize those as faithful sisters who are willing also to conform themselves in this particular, to the teachings of the New Testament.

Ques. 6. What relation does the elder maintain to the ministers?

Ans. In the visible Church we have elders or bishops, ministers, deacons, and lay members, each standing on a common plane, and each having a distinct charge or duty to fulfill. It is the bishop's duty to exercise a vigilant oversight of the ministers and the congregations under his charge, and give such advice and direction as he may deem necessary and advisable. At the same time he should remember his position as a servant of the Church, having general oversight in all things pertaining to his office. His instructions should be followed by his coworkers in the ministry. The bishop should counsel and advise with his coworkers in matters pertaining to the welfare of the Church, and ministers should take no important steps without consulting their elder.

Ques. 7. What relation do the ministers sustain, First, to the congregation in which they are at home; and Second, to their respective conferences?

Ans. They are to be shepherds, teachers, and examples to their flocks; while the elder has the oversight of the churches of his district, his labors must be seconded by his coworkers. Ministers should see that their congregations are supplied with spiritual food according to their needs. They should exercise a vigilant oversight of the members, especially of the wayward, and in all things be in submission to the Church. Second, it is the duty of the ministers to yield to the decisions of conference and also maintain these decisions among the laity. Christ is the head of the Church and has given the authority of Church Government to the Church. Conference is the representative of this authority and gives expression to the faith and practices taught in the Bible and maintained by the Church. Therefore, all members, including ministers, should be subject to the decisions of conference. All our ministers should hold allegiance to the conference of their district.

Ques. 8. What can be done to preserve our young men from joining secret societies?

Ans. Parents should teach their children the inconsistencies and evils of secret societies. Every effort should be made to get them converted before the secret societies get hold of them.

Ques. 9. When a member withdraws from Church membership for any cause, what action should the Church take in the matter?

Ans. When all reasonable efforts have been made to reclaim such a member who has fallen away into sin or the ways of the world or have even joined another denomination, and he can not be won, there should be no neglect in making the fact known to the Church.

Ques. 10. How far should our members take liberty to worship with other denominations and what will be the effects of such association on building up the Church?

Ans. Only so far as we can do according to the Bible. When ministers and members spend their time and their strength in working in other denominations they are sure to neglect the work in their own Church. Besides this they are almost certain to sanction, directly or indirectly, some doctrines and practices which we hold as being contrary to the Scriptures. When we stand well to our own Church we do more for the cause of Christ in general than by working in other churches. This is not to be construed that we consider it wrong to go to places of worship, other than our own, at opportune times. Good judgment should

be used concerning our relations toward other professors of religion.

Resolved, That this conference elect a permanent secretary whose duty it shall be to keep a record of the proceedings of conference in a book for that special purpose. He shall serve for a term of three years, or until his successor is elected and has accepted the office. Adopted. David Burkholder was chosen.

Decided by vote that next year's Conference be held at the Shore Church, Lagrange Co., Ind., on the second Thursday of October, 1897. Closing prayer by Bro. D. J. Johns.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Shore Church, October 14, 1897

Conference met at the Shore Church, Lagrange Co., Ind., October 14, at nine o'clock. J. S. Lehman was chosen moderator and S. F. Coffman, assistant secretary. Devotional services by Moses Brenneman who read I Peter 5 and led in prayer. Conference sermon, J. F. Funk who used I Cor. 3:9 as a text. He explained the duties of bishops, ministers, and deacons, and gave many other helpful admonitions. He was followed by P. Y. Lehman.

Thursday Afternoon Session

Christian Good read Rom. 12 and led in prayer. The brotherhood gave their endorsement to the doctrines and admonitions as set forth in the sermon. The following bishops, ministers, and deacons were present:

Bishops: J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; P. Y. Lehman and D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers: Moses Brenneman, Elida, O.; Christian Good, Dale Enterprise, Va.; J. S. Coffman, J. S. Lehman, J. S. Hartzler, S. F. Coffman, Samuel Yoder and Jacob Shenk, Elkhart, Ind.; Daniel Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; David Burkholder and J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; Eli Miller, Jacob Miller and Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; Joseph Miller, Andrew Hostetler, Chris. Schrock, and D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; Noah Metzler, and J. W. Christophel, South West, Ind.; Amos Mumaw, Henry Weldy, Jonas Loucks, and John Hygema, Wakarusa, Ind.; Isaac Weaver, Bowne, Mich.; John Garber, Schrock, Ind.; Daniel Kinsport, Clay City, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Jonathan Troyer, John Hostetler, Emma, Ind.; Eli Schrock, Lagrange, Ind.; Harvey Friesner, Bristol, Ind.

Deacons: Jacob Long and D. H. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; John Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; James Mishler, Shipshewana,

Ind.; Chris. Yoder, Emma, Ind.; John Hoover, Goshen, Ind., and Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.

Ques. 1. How could Church counsels be conducted that they would prove more beneficial and bring a better attendance?

Resolved, That Church counsels may (if the congregation so agrees) be conducted similar to Church conferences.

Ques. 2. Would this conference think it right for any brother to serve as a member of an election Board?

Ans. Believing it to be inconsistent with the nonresistant faith, brethren shall not serve on election Boards.

Ques. 3. What is the sentiment of this conference toward the liquor traffic as it exists at the present time?

Ans. Resolved, That this conference is unqualifiedly opposed to the liquor traffic in all its forms (except where it is necessary to use it for mechanical, chemical, and medical purposes) we recommend that all our members use all their influence against it that they can consistently with their nonresistant profession.

Ques. 4. Does this conference sanction Bible Readings? If so, how should they be conducted?

The answer was postponed until next day. The afternoon session was closed by prayer, Bro. David Burkholder leading.

Friday Morning Session

Devotional service by Bro. Daniel Kinsport who read Ezek. 47 and led in prayer, after which Ques. 4 was taken up again. Ans. We recommend that Bible readings be maintained in all the Churches where they can be held with the consent of the Church and to the edification of the congregation. The ministers and the old people should also attend and assist.

Ques. 5. Is it right for our members to attend jubilees, old settlers' meetings, ball games, and the like?

Ans. This conference considers it improper for any of the members of the Church to attend such celebrations and amusements.

Ques. 6. Does this conference commend the present custom of the sisters doing so much work on Sunday in preparing sumptuous dinners for their visitors?

Ans. It does not; nor does it commend the much display and extensive preparations for refreshments at funerals. This should be discouraged.

Ques. 7. How may we promote spiritual life in the Church?

Quite a number of brethren gave very good thoughts. Here are a few: If there is no spiritual life, there is something wrong with the spiritual body. As minister, so Church. We are not to

try to entertain, but teach sound doctrine. There must be new members, new ministers full of new life, a Spirit-filled body. The minister being spiritual should study the Word, and try to give out spiritual food. Ministers and members pray more for each other. Must have less of the world and more of the Spirit. Do more spiritual work. Not walk so near to the world. Make more of a study of spiritual things. Like begets like. Be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Christ in you the hope of glory. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead us on to victory.

Resolved, That it is inconsistent with the Gospel of Christ for the sisters to wear the wide collars, wide sleeves, puffed sleeves, ruffles, and other adornments now so much indulged in by some professing Christians. Brethren, likewise, shall not wear standing collars with tipped-down corners, fancy neck ties, jewelry and other things of like nature. We earenstly urge that all our ministers, not only at examination meetings, but on all proper occasions, both publicly and privately, teach and admonish with all patience and long-suffering to bring our people to a better understanding of what the simplicity of the Gospel means and to lead them, in the fear of the Lord, to practice it.

It was also urged that our people refrain from such amusements as croquet, baseball, birthday parties; also from visiting questionable places such as pool rooms, horse races, etc., and spend their time in things more profitable, such as Christian work, visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, reading the Word and prayer.

The address of the General Conference Committee was read.

Delegates to the preliminary meeting to be held at Elida, O., Nov. 11, 1897, were then appointed: Two bishops, J. F. Funk and P. Y. Lehman, David Burkholder, the former committeeman, and Amos Cripe, Jonas Loucks, Henry Weldy, J. S. Coffman and Jacob Wisler.

A committee was also appointed to investigate a difficulty in the Clinton district. Brethren, Jacob Wisler, Jacob Long, and D. H. Coffman.

Resolved, That questions 6 and 7 of Conference for 1896, be also inserted in the minutes of this conference.

Resolved, That the conference for 1898 be held at Nappanee, Ind., on the second Thursday of October.

Closing prayer by Bro. Noah Metzler.

David Burkholder, Secretary.
S. F. Coffman, Asst. Sec.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Nappanee Church, October 13, 14, 1898

The conference for 1898 was held at the Nappanee Meeting-house, Oct. 13 and 14, as previously announced.

Devotions were conducted by Bro. Samuel Yoder. J. F. Funk was chosen moderator, J. S. Coffman, secretary, and J. S. Hartzler, assistant. J. F. Funk preached the conference sermon. He read Eph. 4:1-32. (The copious notes on the sermon are omitted here. Comp. Com.) Other bishops, ministers, and deacons, gave their testimonies to the sermon. (No list of the ministry present is given in the minutes. Comp. Com.)

Thursday Afternoon Session

Bro. Daniel Kinsport read Heb. 7:1-11 and led in prayer. Several ministers who, for want of time, had not given their testimony in the forenoon did it at this time.

Ques. 1. When a member transgresses and is required to make an open confession, shall he do it himself or shall he simply say, Yes, to the question of the bishop?

Ans. It is preferable that the transgressor make his own confession, but in cases where one is too timid or incapable, the bishop should present the confession for him. The principal thing in the confession is fruits meet for repentance.

Ques. 2. What evidence should we have from the transgressor that his confession is sincere?

Ans. An apparent deep sorrow for sin with tears and pleadings is good evidence. This may be insincere but as we can not see into the heart, the church must take the evidence that the individual gives.

Ques. 3. Shall a member who is guilty of adultery or fornication be expelled, or may he simply confess and be retained as a member?

Ans. On account of the greatness of sin, and the danger of such persons not seeing their real condition, we advise that such persons be expelled. I Cor. 5:7-11; II Thes. 3:11, 14.

Ques. 4. Has a minister or Sunday school teacher a right, in public services, to advocate or justify the use of intoxicating liquors?

This question was discussed at length, but left over for next day.

Friday Morning Session

Bro. John Garber led in the devotional services. Question 4 was resumed.

Ans. This question was presented in order that conference might put itself on record with "no uncertain sound." No Christian should in any way advocate or justify the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, but every Christian should use his influence against it to the extent of preferring unfermented wine at the communion, and refusing to vote at the polls for persons who encourage the liquor traffic.

Ques. 5. What can we do to promote the cause of missions?

Ans. The following was adopted: We may promote the cause of missions: First, by seeing and doing the work in the home church. He that is not able and willing to do the work at home will not accomplish much abroad. Second, by awakening the Church to the sin of worldliness, the awfulness of heathenism, and the value of lost souls. Third, by revival of earnest, devoted prayer; of the spirit of true sacrifice, so that we are willing to go wherever the Lord calls us. Matt. 28:18; I Pet. 3:1; Luke 16: 4-10; Rom. 10:14, 15.

Resolved, That each minister should preach a sermon on the first Sunday in January of each year on missions, missionary work, and the necessity of missionaries going into the foreign fields, and that at the same time the members pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His vineyard.

Friday Afternoon Session

Devotional services by Bro. D. J. Johns.

Ques. 6. Is it right for ministers to have their photographs taken in family groups?

Ans. The taking of photographs of persons should be faithfully testified against by ministers, both by example and teaching.

Ques. 7. Is it becoming for brethren to wear the full beard in winter (except the mustache) and in the summer shave smooth?

Ans. Changes in the wearing of the beard as well as changes in the form of dress and the wearing of the hair have a tendency to worldly conformity and are not becoming.

Ques. 8. What can we do to keep our members in the order of the Church, and prevent them from drifting into worldliness?

Ans. Ministers and teachers should first be examples themselves in the family, in business, and in public worship, and then so preach and teach that the Church may see that its order is founded on principles of the Bible and not on traditions of men. Rom. 12:1, 2; I Peter 3:3-5; I Cor. 9:25-27.

Ques. 9. What are the scriptural evidences of conversion and what should be required of our converts to be received into Church fellowship?

Ans. The scriptural evidences of conversion are, a godly sorrow for sin, true repentance followed by an experimental knowledge of pardon and acceptance with God. There must be a new creature which will be manifested by amendment of life. The convert, to be received into Church fellowship should have experienced peace with God, a love for his Savior and the people of God, should show a perfect willingness to make restitution, and to conform their lives to the teachings of the Bible. Rom. 6:16; 8:16; Gal. 5:6; II Cor. 5:17.

Conference granted the following ordinations: Ministers at Nappanee and Salem, and deacon to Pleasant Valley, DeKalb Co., Ind.

There were present at the Conference, five bishops, eighteen ministers, and five deacons. These were two busy days, there was a good attendance, and the discussions were interesting and profitable.

Conference adjourned at four o'clock, to meet at the Yellow Creek Church on the second Thursday in October, 1899.

J. S. Coffman, Secretary.
J. S. Hartzler, Asst. Sec.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 12, 13, 1899

Conference was held at the Yellow Creek Church, Oct. 12 and 13.

Bro. P. Y. Lehman was chosen moderator, Bro. Jonathan Kurtz, assistant moderator, and Bro. D. J. Johns, assistant secretary. Moderator read Eph. 4, and Bro. Noah Metzler led in prayer. Conference address by Bro. Kurtz. Converts should be carefully instructed, should be obedient to God and the Church. The moderator followed with many good thoughts.

The bishops, ministers and deacons gave testimony to the sermon and gave short statements with regard to the condition of their several congregations.

Bishops present: P. Y. Lehman, D. J. Johns, and J. P. Smucker, of Goshen, Ind.; Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.

Ministers present: David Burkholder and J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; Henry Weldy, John Hygema, Jonas Loucks, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jas. Coyle and Eli Stofer, Hudson, Ind.; Noah Metzler and J. W. Christophel, Southwest, Ind.; Harvey Friesner,

Bristol, Ind.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; C. P. Steiner, Cranberry, O.; Jacob Shenk, Elkhart, Ind.

Deacons present: N. S. Hoover, Southwest, Ind.; Jacob Long, Elkhart, Ind.; J. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.; J. C. Hershberger, Middlebury, Ind.; John Bare and Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.; C. Z. Yoder, Weilersville, O.; Samuel Smeltzer, Wakarusa, Ind.

The congregation, by a rising vote, expressed a desire to stand by the ministry in carrying out the doctrines of the Bible and the order of the Church. The afternoon session was closed by prayer.

Friday Forenoon Session

After the devotional services Bro. C. Z. Yoder made some remarks concerning the Old People's Home of Wayne Co., O., soliciting aid, etc.

Ques. 1. Is it consistent for our young men to be members of the Y. M. C. A.?

Ans. Christ organized the Church, hence we need no outside organization which at best promotes only morality.

Ques. 2. What is the position of this conference in regard to our people taking an active part in the union, township, county, and state Sunday school conventions?

Ans. We believe that it is not consistent for us as defenseless Christians to participate in the various exercises of the Union S. S. conventions.

Ques. 3. If a man who has been preaching as a probationer in another denomination but was never ordained, makes application for membership in our Church, can he be received as a minister?

Ans. This being similar to a question in 1894 Conference, that question and answer was adopted. It reads as follows: Can a minister whose ordination was not in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel be taken into the lot for bishop? Ans. No, neither can such an one be allowed to serve the Church as minister.

Noon Hour

(Doubtless devotional services were conducted, but no record was made of it.)

Ques. 4. Is it expedient for our people to advocate in public services the doctrine of degrees of reward in heaven and punishment of the lost?

Ans. We deem it inexpedient because it is not profitable neither is there a scriptural foundation for it. Matt. 20:1-16; I John 3:2; Phil. 3:21.

Ques. 5. If a member leaves a congregation, gets a letter of membership, settles in another congregation, and does not present the letter and his life becomes inconsistent, whose duty will it be to look after him?

Ans. Those who have the oversight of the congregation where he now resides should report to his former bishop or minister who should further investigate the matter and deal with him according to the Word of God.

Bro. David Burkholder informed conference that the time for which he had been elected as permanent secretary had expired upon which conference reëlected him for another term of three years.

Bro. Noah Hoover, executor of the estate of Samuel Gochanour stated that Bro. Gochanour bequeathed a certain sum of money to the Church, the interest of which is to be used for various church purposes, and the money to be in the care of a person appointed by the Indiana conference, and therefore asked the conference to appoint some one to receipt for the money. Bro. Jonas Christophel was appointed.

Next conference to be held at the Olive meetinghouse, beginning on Thursday preceding the second Friday in October, 1900. Conference was closed by song and prayer.

Conference was largely attended; interest good; best of order; good feeling prevailed, and it is hoped that all will redound to the glory of God.

David Burkholder, Secretary.
D. J. Johns, Asst. Sec.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Olive Church, October 11, 1900

The Indiana-Michigan Conference met at the Olive Church, Thursday, Oct. 11, the bishops meeting in the forenoon and conference proper at 1:30 P. M. Bro. P. Y. Lehman was chosen moderator and Bro. J. F. Funk, assistant moderator. Bro. P. Y. Lehman opened Conference by reading I Cor. 3, and after a number of comments called on Bro. Y. C. Miller to lead in prayer. Bro. Funk preached the sermon, followed by several other bishops.

Bishops present: P. Y. Lehman, J. P. Smucker and D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; Michael Horst, Orrville, O.; J. M. Shenk, Elida, O.; and Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.

Ministers present: John Blosser, New Stark, O.; John Hygema, Jonas Loucks, Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Samuel Yoder, J.

S. Hartzler, and Jacob Shenk, Elkhart, Ind.; Eli Stofer, Hudson, Ind.; D. S. Brunk, Elida, O.; Frank Hartman, J. H. McGowen and David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; Noah Metzler, J. W. Christophel, South West, Ind.; John Garber, Schrock, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; A. S. Cripe, Emma, Ind.; Harvey Friesner, Bristol, Ind.; and D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.

Deacons present: N. S. Hoover, South West, Ind.; Jacob Wisler and J. H. Bare, Nappanee, Ind.; Samuel Smeltzer, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jacob Long and Jacob Hershberger, Goshen, Ind.; Jonas Brubaker, Elkhart, Ind.; Perry Brunk, Elida, O.; and J. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.

Friday Forenoon

The devotional services were conducted by Bro. D. S. Brunk after which the questions were taken up.

Ques. 1. Would it not be better to have Sunday School Conference only one day so that people could come in the morning, bring their dinners and horse feed and go home in the evening and thus save much labor and expense to the people in the neighborhood in which it is held, and then if so desired, hold it at more places?

Ans. After a long discussion, the question was voted down.

Resolved, That this conference require of all ministers visiting in this conference district, preaching in the several churches, a certificate of good standing in the conference to which they belong, also a certificate of good standing from their home conference?

Ans. Inasmuch as Lancaster Conference asks of ministers coming into its district to work, to bring a certificate of good standing in their home conference, be it,

Resolved, That the secretary of this conference be authorized to grant such certificate with the consent of the majority of their home congregation where such minister is at home.

Ques. 2. What method should be taken to prevent our people from dressing so much like the world, and get them to adorn themselves in modest apparel and in scriptural simplicity?

Friday Afternoon

The afternoon session was opened by devotional services led by Bro. D. S. Brunk, after which Ques. 2 was again taken up. After a lengthy discussion the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the proper method of accomplishing this important work will be to begin in the home. The bishops should first be in order in their apparel in their homes and in all that they have about them, likewise the ministers, the deacons, the

S. S. superintendents and teachers, the fathers, the mothers, the workers at S. S. conferences and young people's meetings, and all who undertake to do religious work. All should be strictly nonconformed to the world and show an example worthy of imitation.

Ques. 3. What does term, "congregational form of government," mean as applied to our denomination?

Resolved, That congregational form of Church government means that the majority rules, or that the authority is vested in the congregation and not in the overseers.

Ques. 4. When church counsel is taken concerning a matter, and one party is in favor and the other opposed, and the remaining members are neutral, have those retiring to the Counsel room any right to count the neutral ones as being in their favor and call it the majority of the Church?

Ans. No.

Ques. 5. Is it right for our ministers to unite persons in marriage when one or both of them are not members of the Church?

Resolved, That our ministers shall not unite in marriage where one is a member and the other in the world because that would be unequally yoking a member with an unbeliever. Neither where both are in the world because that can not be marrying in the Lord.

The Elkhart church trouble was now taken up for consideration. In order to keep the trouble from spreading and disturbing other congregations, the conference proposed to the Elkhart ministry to remain in their own congregation, and not offer their services outside of Elkhart until the difficulty here is settled, which they willingly accepted.

Conference was closed with prayer by J. P. Smucker.

Conference for 1901 will be held at the Holdeman Church.

David Burkholder, Secretary.
John Blosser, Asst. Sec.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church October 10, 1901

Conference met at the Holdeman Church on Thursday, Oct. 10. The bishops met in private counsel. The ministers, deacons, and the brotherhood met in the main room of the Church and engaged in singing, prayer, and admonition. The bishops did not get through with their counsel until Friday afternoon. In the meantime the brotherhood was together engaged in worship.

After prayer the bishops, having their proposed plan of settlement of the Elkhart troubles ready, presented the following:

PROPOSED PLAN FOR SETTLING THE ELKHART CHURCH DIFFICULTIES

1. All the difficulties relating to the Church in Elkhart, and all questions arising therefrom, shall be submitted to an impartial committee of five brethren.

2. Before this committee, all persons implicated shall have the right to be heard and their testimonies given due consideration.

3. No hear-say testimony shall be admitted by this committee.

4. This committee shall have jurisdiction over all questions that have arisen since the settlement effected in the Elkhart congregation in October, 1899, and their decision shall be final.

5. This committee shall be appointed as follows: John F. Funk, representing him those who support him, shall select two brethren. David Burkholder, Jacob Shenk and Noah S. Hoover, representing those dissatisfied with John F. Funk, shall choose two brethren. The four brethren thus chosen, shall select the fifth. This committee shall be chosen without unnecessary delay and proceed with their work.

6. Upon the completion of their labors, this committee shall call an adjourned session of the Indiana-Michigan Conference.

This report was signed as follows: Eli Stofer, P. Y. Lehman, John F. Funk, J. S. Hartzler, J. S. Lehman, Jonas Loucks, John Hygema, Frank Hartman, Jacob G. Long, Isaac Weaver, Noah Metzler, Samuel Smeltzer, J. W. Christophel, John H. Bare, James J. Mishler, Jacob H. Wisler, Abraham Culp, D. H. Coffman, Samuel Yoder, Amos S. Cripe, Noah S. Hoover, Yost C. Miller, Jonas Brubaker, David Burkholder, John Garber.

The following brethren from other conference districts were present:

Bishops: Albrecht Shiffler, Roseland, Nebr.; Tilman Erb, Hesston, Kans.; Daniel Kauffman, Versailles, Mo.; John Nice, Morrison, Ill.; John M. Shenk, Elida, O.; John N. Durr, Martinsburg, Pa.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers: John McCulloh, Ustic, Ill.; J. S. Shoemaker, Dakota, Ill.; Moses Brenneman, Lima, O.; D. S. Brunk, Elida, O.; C. P. Steiner, Beaver Dam, O.; M. S. Steiner, Columbus Grove, O.; John Blosser, New Stark, O.; Amos Mumaw, Wooster, O.; Isaac Wambold, Breslau, Ont.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; Eli Bontrager, Nappanee, Ind.; David Morrell, Goshen, Ind.

Deacons: Samuel Burkholder, Harrisonburg, Va.; Perry Brunk, Elida, O.; Jacob Kolb, Berlin, Ont.

The committee, chosen in accordance with the proposed plan

presented their report to the Church at Elkhart on the morning of Jan. 31, 1902, as follows:

We, the undersigned, having carefully investigated in the fear of the Lord, the difficulties existing in the Church at Elkhart, beg leave to submit the following report:

We unanimously agreed from the testimonies received that Bishop John F. Funk has not been altogether faithful in his duties as bishop. Inasmuch as he has been unfaithful in his charge in this that he has violated Gospel principles, and rulings of Indiana and Michigan conference, We therefore require that he shall come before the Church and confess that he has not faithfully performed his duty as bishop and ask forbearance for the same in the following instances:

1. That he held unfair counsel meetings. Jas. 2:9.
2. Deceptive and erroneous statements. "Let us walk honestly, not in strife." Rom. 13:13.
3. Manifested self-will in Church government. Titus 1:7.
4. Violated rules of Indiana and Michigan Conference.
5. Used hard and unbecoming expressions.
6. Uncharitable and impatient in his public ministrations. II Tim. 2:2.
7. Refused the pulpit to visiting ministers who were in good standing in their own congregations. III John 9 and 10.

In consideration of the fact that Bro. John F. Funk as bishop has lost his influence with nearly all of his ministers and deacons and of the majority of the membership of his district, we have unanimously decided as follows: That he shall not officiate in his congregations, at conference, or abroad, as a bishop for one year from date except in urgent cases of sickness where baptism or communion may be necessary. During this time it is to be hoped that he, by his conduct toward his ministers, deacons, and members, may so gain their confidence that they would be prompted to again accept him as their acting bishop. At the expiration of one year all the congregations over which he has had care as bishop shall be duly informed after which a counsel shall be held and by a two-thirds majority of the members of said congregations he shall again take up his work as bishop. Until then he shall have the rights and privileges of a minister but shall not act in the capacity of a bishop. This is not to be understood as taking from him his office as bishop but simply to suspend his power to act for the time being until such confidence is restored as will make his work acceptable. Neither is it to be understood as a punishment for what this committee has found against him. Nothing more than his confession being required for that.

Furthermore, when a bishop is needed in the district, Bro. Funk, with the advice and consent of ministers and deacons where such service is needed, shall call a bishop from some other district to take charge of the work. In case of Bro. Funk's failure to thus provide a bishop, the ministers and deacons, by the consent of the members, shall call a bishop to supply their needs. We also advise and beseech brethren and sisters to use all charity, and in words and deeds, do all they can to bring about confidence between Bro. Funk and his brethren.

Having heard a number of serious charges against Bro. J. S. Lehman, we would say that after hearing his defense and explana-

tions we are not justified in condemning him, yet we do not believe that his conduct is consistent for a minister of the Gospel, and would ask him to come before the Church and confess that his way of doing has not been profitable to the best interests of the Church, and would ask him to give his ministerial duties more attention and get away from those worldiy duties which tend to destroy his influence in the Church.

Bishop Daniel Kauffman. We find by the evidence given that bishop Daniel Kauffman has violated the rules of the Indiana-Michigan conference by baptizing the converts at the Elkhart Institute contrary to the advice and wishes of the resident bishop, and we ask that he come before the Church and ask forbearance for the said violation.

Daniel H. Coffman. We find that deacon Daniel H. Coffman's attitude in the Horsch and Betzner affair, towards bishop J. F. Funk was not commendable and we require that he come before the Church and ask forbearance, and promise to be more faithful in the future, and in acceptance of this he shall be again recognized as holding his office as deacon.

Members' Meeting. We do not endorse the conduct and actions of the members' meeting held Oct. 3, 1900, and believe that the same was improper and not in accordance with our rules of order and forms of worship, and therefore ask that all who took part in that meeting shall ask the forbearance of the Church.

Samuel Yoder. Since it has been shown that Bro. Samuel Yoder has spoken disrespectfully of the bishop and members of the Church we ask that he confess this before the Church, and ask forgiveness.

J. S. Hartzler. We agree that the charges against Bro. J. S. Hartzler are not fully sustained by the evidence, and that he was censured by a counsel not fairly held, yet we ask that he confess that his course in retaining a questionable membership was not commendable, and that upon said confession he shall be, in accordance with his request, a minister at this place.

To those who withdrew. We believe that the action taken by the brethren in withdrawing, and establishing another place of worship, was a mistake and a violation of our rules of order, and by the acceptance of this decision, they shall reinstate themselves in the Church with the understanding that they submit to the rules and regulations of the Church at this place.

By baptism we unite with the Church general; by letter or recommendation we join congregations. We hold the baptism of the Institute converts as valid, but must say that the rule and custom of our Church has been violated in the cases where they did not unite themselves with an organized body of our people. Those who accept this report and its decisions, and agree to submit to the rules and regulations of the Church shall be recognized as members in full standing.

Against ministers and deacons at Home Conference, March, 1901. We recognize that the act of appointing Bro. David Burkholder as bishop, pro tem was unwise and contrary to our rules of Church government, and ask that they confess the error of their way.

Jonas Brubaker. We advise that deacon Jonas Brubaker shall ask forbearance of all whom he has grieved in the attitude he has taken.

C. N. Holdeman. We ask that Bro. C. N. Holdeman ask forbearance of all whom he has grieved in the attitude he has taken.

In consideration of the fact that the quarantine was left uncertain as to its nature and duration we feel that the action taken by the members at the Home Conference last September to debar the bishop from the counsel was premature and unwise.

Resolved, That we, as a committee, advise the Mennonite Congregations of the Indiana-Michigan conference district to hold their own conference and not permit members of other denominations to take part in organizing the conference or voting on any question that may arise in conference.

2. That no members of another denomination shall take part in Church government either by voting or giving counsel or otherwise, and that the Church government should be entirely in the hands of our own members.

Trustees. In view of the present situation we recognize it as being in order for A. K. Funk, Tobias Page, and J. R. Lehman, the present trustees of the Elkhart Mennonite congregation, to be recognized as such, and whatever indebtedness may be resting on the Church at this time should in no way be assigned to those who withdrew from this place.

We earnestly admonish and advise that all members conform themselves to the rules of the Church along the lines of plainness in dress; that young people especially should make improvement in this particular by discarding such fashionable articles of attire as derby hats, high collars, cuffs, shirtwaists, jewelry, etc., etc.

In case of difference of opinion as to the meaning of the matter herein contained, this committee reserves the right to interpret its own report.

An acceptance of this report shall be considered as a settlement of all questions in accordance with evidence given, and all difficulties shall be forever dropped.

Shall any persistently refuse to submit to this decision they forfeit their membership in the Church.

Our hope and sincere desire is that this report will be cheerfully accepted, that reconciliation will be made and that all will have the future success and welfare at heart.

Isaac Eby, Lewis J Heatwole, Ira J. Buckwalter, Geo. R. Brunk, Henry D. Heller.

The persons implicated in the controversy having made satisfactory answers to the committee, the meeting adjourned, and the afternoon was occupied in holding a conference presided over by the committee, the report of which now follows: (Copied from the Herald of Truth.)

David Burkholder, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE (Adjourned Session)

Held at the Elkhart Church, January 31, 1902

Conference met at 1 P. M., at Elkhart meetinghouse. The services were opened by bishop George R. Brunk, reading part of Eph. 4, and after appropriate remarks leading in prayer.

Bro. Ira J. Buckwalter was chosen moderator and Bro. Daniel Kauffman, assistant secretary. The Conference address was delivered by Bro. Isaac Eby. He stressed the importance of a sound faith, thorough repentance, and how the Holy Spirit in our lives helps us to work together. We should be careful to study to show ourselves approved unto God, for man sees what is on the surface but God sees the motive as well as the act. It is not the largest church that is the best but the one that stays nearest the Word of God.

Bro. Eby was followed by the moderator who outlined the object of the conference. The bishops, ministers, and deacons gave their testimony, strongly endorsing the thoughts in the sermon and declared their loyalty to the Church and their determination to press forward in the work of the Lord. Their testimonies were marked for their deep spiritual tone. Many helpful thoughts were presented.

Bishops present: Isaac Eby, Kinzers, Pa.; L. J. Heatwole, Harrisonburg, Va.; I. J. Buckwalter, Dalton, O.; George R. Brunk, Inman, Kans.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; Daniel Kauffman, Versailles, Mo.; P. Y. Lehman, Goshen, Ind.; Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.

Ministers present: Amos S. Cripe, Emma, Ind.; Samuel Yoder, J. S. Lehman, J. S. Hartzler, Elkhart, Ind.; Noah Metzler, Jacob Shenk, J. W. Christophel, Jonas Loucks, John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; A. D. Wenger, Millersville, Pa.

Deacons present: Henry Heller, Lancaster, Pa.; Jacob Long, N. S. Hoover, J. C. Hershberger, Goshen, Ind.; Jonas Brubaker, D. H. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; Jacob Wisler, Nappanee, Ind.; Eli D. Yoder, West Liberty, O.; Samuel Smeltzer, Wakarusa, Ind.

The question was raised whether we have another session on Saturday. After some discussion it was decided to adjourn to the time of our next conference.

Decided that the next conference be held at the Shore Church on Thursday preceding the second Friday of October, 1902.

David Burkholder, Secretary.
Daniel Kauffman, Asst. Sec.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Shore Church, October 9, 1902

Conference met at 10 o'clock at the Shore meetinghouse, Thursday, Oct. 9. Bishops' counsel was held in counsel room.

The brethren and sisters spent the forenoon in singing, Scripture reading, and prayer. Many good admonitions were given.

Thursday Afternoon

The afternoon session was opened with song. Bro. Moses Brenneman read I Cor. 3, gave some earnest admonitions, and led in prayer. Bro. J. M. Shenk was chosen moderator and Bro. John Nice, assistant. The latter also delivered the conference address. Bro. N. O. Blosser was chosen assistant secretary.

Text, Eph. 2:19 to end of chapter. A few points discussed: Build on the Rock. Preach to warn the wicked. Nonresistance. We must be transformed, or we are likely to have a form of godliness yet deny the power thereof. After some remarks by the moderator, the following bishops, ministers, and deacons responded, testifying to the sermon and giving a short sketch of the condition of their home congregation.

Bishops present: J. M. Shenk, Elida, O.; John Nice, Morrison, Ill.; J. P. Miller, White Cloud, Mich.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; P. Y. Lehman, Goshen, Ind.; Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.

Ministers present: Moses Brenneman, Elida, O.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; N. O. Blosser, New Stark, O.; Jonas Loucks, Goshen, Ind.; Noah Metzler, Goshen, Ind.; Jacob Shenk, Goshen, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Elkhart, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; A. S. Cripe, Emma, Ind.; John Hygema, Wakarusa, Ind.; J. W. Christophel, Goshen, Ind.; Henry Weldy; Wakarusa, Ind.; John Garber, Schrock, Ind.

Deacons present: J. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.; J. C. Hershberger, N. S. Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; D. H. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.

The congregation also gave testimony by a rising vote, and after prayer by Bro. Nice, conference adjourned until next morning.

Friday Forenoon

Bro. N. O. Blosser read Rom. 12 and led in prayer. Brethren, Peter Keim of Logan, Mich., and Harvey Friesner, Bristol, Ind., not having been present on Thursday, were called on for a few remarks. The following questions were then considered:

Ques. 1. Is it advisable and proper for each congregation in a conference district to send a delegate or delegates to the conference?

Resolved, That we encourage congregations that have no minister or deacon to represent them at conference, to send a brother or brethren to represent them and bring with them a report of the same.

Ques. 2. If there is only one bishop in a bishop district, in case of his death, how should the vacancy be filled?

Resolved, That when any district is without a bishop for any cause, that they appeal to Conference for a bishop. If bishop service is needed before the convening of conference, the congregation shall have authority to invite a bishop to do their work.

No resolution having been framed to Ques. 3, that question is omitted in the report.

Ques. 4. How may Christians enjoy the abiding life of Christ? Text, "He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." John 15:5.

Resolved, That we can enjoy the abiding life in Christ, (John 15:6). "If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love." The following are some of the practical thoughts given by different ministers: Subdue our wills to the will of God. Self denial. Eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ. Take time to be Holy. Full consecration to God. Be separate from the world. Putting on the Lord Jesus. Grafted into the true vine.

Ques. 5. What does this conference consider an ideal Christian life: (a) in a young Christian; (b) in an older Christian; (c) in a minister; (d), in a deacon?

Ans. The ideal Christian must be born again, then let every brother and sister carefully follow I Peter 1:5-8, the deacons keep I Tim. 3:12, 13 before them. As ministers seek to follow II Tim. 4:2 and 2:15. Bishops follow Titus 5:1-10 and I Tim. 3:1-13.

Ques. 6. What is the attitude of this conference toward General Conference?

Resolved, That this conference adopt the General Conference and that this conference send delegates.

Ques. 7. What means does this conference advise as helpful to spiritual growth of the individual members of the Church?

Resolved, That this conference advise that we exercise more sociability seasoned with Gospel truth and grace, especially toward the sick, cold and indifferent in God's service.

Delegates to the General Conference, Y. C. Miller, J. S. Hartzler and John Hygema.

The ordination of Bro. Jacob Miller of White Cloud, Mich., as bishop, which for certain reasons was considered by some as unscriptural, was taken up by conference and acknowledged as legal.

The congregation at Emma, Lagrange Co., Ind., presented the following appeal: "We as members of the Mennonite Church, living in the vicinity of the Mennonite Church (lately built) de-

sire to be organized into a congregation at the above named place, and beg leave to ask this conference to be admitted into, and recognized as a part of the body of believers composing the Indiana-Michigan conference district and to be governed and keep house according to the rules of said conference." The request was granted; permission was also granted to ordain a minister and a deacon at that place. Permission was also granted to ordain a minister, both in the Shore and in the Clinton congregations.

Bro. George Lambert made application to be received into membership with the Mennonite Church. In accordance with a conference resolution adopted in 1893, he was accepted by a vote of 19 to 1, subject to the counsel of the congregation in the district in which he resides.

The term of service for which the secretary was elected having expired, conference reëlected him for another three years.

Decided that the conference for 1903 be held at the Bowne Church, Kent Co., Mich., on Thursday preceding the second Friday of October.

There being no further business, conference adjourned.

David Burkholder, Secretary.
N. O. Blosser, Assistant.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Bowne Church, October 8, 1903

Conference convened at the Bowne meetinghouse near Elmdale, Mich., October 8, the forenoon being devoted to bishops' counsel, arranging questions, etc. The bishops decided that Bro. J. S. Shoemaker should preach the conference sermon. Bro. Shoemaker was also chosen moderator. He chose Bro. J. P. Miller as his assistant. The secretary chose Bro. J. S. Hartzler as assistant secretary.

The forenoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. John Blosser.

Thursday Afternoon Session

Bro. Jacob Shenk read I Cor. 12 and led in prayer, after which Bro. Shoemaker delivered his sermon. (Evidently the secretary forgot to record the text.) Christ is the true foundation. It means something to build on this foundation. Love is the very fountain principle from which all others flow. Let us take Christ as our guide and hope. God has always had His people, and if we will not stand true to Him He will raise up others for His glory. That means that He will forsake us. As ministers of God,

we should be united in opposing all the wickedness and sin of the present age.

The following bishops, ministers and deacons added their testimony:

Bishops present: J. S. Shoemaker, Freeport, Ill.; J. P. Miller, White Cloud, Mich.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers present: David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Jonas Loucks, J. W. Christophel, John Garber and Samuel Honderich, Goshen, Ind.; Isaac Weaver, Alto, Mich.; Peter Keim, Elmdale, Mich.; Henry Weldy, John Hygema, Wakarusa, Ind.; Josiah Miller, Y. C. Miller, Lagrange, Ind.; Oscar Hostetler, Topeka, Ind.; Moses Bowman, Manheim, Ont.; John Blosser, Rawson, O.

Deacons present: J. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.; John Bare, Nappanee, Ind.; D. H. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; Eli Zook, White Cloud, Mich.; Herman Bentler, Freeport, Mich.; Joseph Mishler, Alto, Mich.

The congregation then gave its consent to the sermon and to the principles presented in the sermon.

The secretary read the questions presented for discussion.

Ques. 1. What may be done to enhance the spiritual growth of our members in general?

This was discussed, but for want of time no answer was adopted. The afternoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. J. F. Funk.

Friday Forenoon

Friday forenoon session was opened by John Blosser.

Ques. 1 was again taken up and the following answer adopted: Deeper spiritual living, teaching, and practice of the Word of God with prayer for each other will do much in this direction. A deeper concern for the welfare of others and visiting those who are not thus filled. These things can only be carried out by Spirit-filled persons.

Ques. 2. How shall our smaller congregations be supplied with bishop work when the Evangelizing Board refuses to pay the expenses?

Ans. Since there is no provision made by the Evangelizing Board for that purpose, we believe that it would be well for conference to have a special fund for such work.

Ques. 3. Is it edifying for a bishop to go into another district and do bishop work without being invited by the bishop of that district?

Ans. According to our conference rules a bishop has no right to go into another district to do bishop work without consulting

said bishop, but if said bishop is consulted and does not object or give a scriptural reason, the other bishop may do the work.

Ques. 4. Is it right for our people to sign a remonstrance against a saloon license?

Ans. Let every man be persuaded in his own mind and act accordingly.

Ques. 5. What action should be taken with members who adorn their children in fashionable attire?

Ans. They should be visited and admonished in the spirit of meekness and charity (Gal. 6:1), and if they do not comply with the rules of order they should be considered as transgressors.

Ques. 6. If a member has been excommunicated because of being divorced and has married again while the first husband or wife is living or because of marrying a divorced person, can such be received into Church fellowship?

Ans. Yes, if the party to whom he or she was first married is dead, he or she may be received by making proper confession and showing fruits of repentance.

Ques. 7. What is required of a member marrying a member of some popular Church which does not uphold the doctrine of non-resistance or separation from the world in regard to fashionable attire?

Ans. The party is to be dealt with the same as one who marries a non-professor.

Ques. 8. Is it consistent for our bishops to hold communion or baptize in congregations of the Amish Mennonites, or would it be consistent for our congregations to ask an Amish Mennonite minister or bishop to baptize or hold communion in our congregations?

Ans. In general we believe that it would be better for bishops to do work in their own churches, but there may be circumstances where it would be perfectly consistent.

Ques. 9. Would it be consistent for our ministers, (not bishops) to baptize or hold communion with any of our Amish Mennonite congregations?

Ans. See answer to Ques. 8.

Ques. 10. A sister married a husband who was later arrested and taken away from her because of a former marriage. The wife, without having her first illegal marriage annulled, married another. Can the second husband be received as a brother?

Ans. If the woman has her first marriage annulled, he may be received as a brother.

Ques. 11. Should questions of business be brought up in Counsel Meeting?

Ans. When the business is questionable, and concerns an in-

dividual member it may be brought up. But steps should always be taken to adjust the matter before the time of counsel meeting.

Forenoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. Henry Weldy.

Friday Afternoon Session

Devotional services by Bro. J. P. Miller.

Ques. 12. If a couple who were members of the Church but have become transgressors by violating the laws of chastity, request one of our ministers to marry them, can he do so before they make their confession and again are received into the Church as members, or how is such a case to be dealt with?

Ans. Since such persons sever their connection from the spiritual body by their act, our ministers shall not perform such ceremony until fruits of repentance are shown and the parties have been received.

Ques. 13. How encourage our sisters to wear prayer head coverings and also to remove their bonnets at all devotional meetings and Sunday schools?

Ans. More intelligent teaching of I Cor. 11, and more practical example on the part of the older sisters. No amount of encouragement will avail unless there is a willingness to receive God's Word. Try to bring conviction to the hearts of those who do not understand.

Ques. 14. Is it unscriptural for a lay member who is in good standing in his home congregation to invite a minister of our faith of another congregation to visit said lay member's congregation provided he, the lay member, sees that the minister's expenses are paid?

Ans. It is proper for a brother to give such invitations under such circumstances provided the brother gives the invitation to a regular appointment, but an invitation to hold a series of meetings should be given at least by the consent of the home ministers and the congregation.

Ques. 15. Will this conference grant the ordination of a minister at the Bowne (Mich.) congregation, or send a minister from some other place?

Ans. On motion the petition was granted.

Ques. 16. Does this conference sanction the ordination of a bishop for the Shore, Emma, and Clinton Churches, the congregations having taken the counsel in favor of such ordinations?

Ans. Petition was granted.

Ques. 17. Inasmuch as the Home Conference decided that it is necessary to ordain a bishop in Elkhart County (Evidently the words, "west of Goshen," were left out in copying the petition.—

Compiling Committee.) **does this conference grant permission to choose or ordain one with the consent of the congregations?**

Ans. Petition was granted.

Ques. 18. Whereas our former bishop, P. Y. Lehman, in his announcement of withdrawal from the Indiana-Michigan conference charged the committee called to investigate and adjust the Clinton Mennonite Church difficulty, with irregular proceedings and partial and unjust decisions therefore be it,

Resolved, That this conference hereby protest against, and deny the charges made by said P. Y. Lehman and thus vindicate said committee.

Resolved, That this conference grant the holding of a Bible conference in this conference district.

A Petition

To the Indiana-Michigan Conference.

We, the undersigned members of the Mennonite congregation residing at Goshen, Ind., humbly petition this conference to send a bishop to coöperate with an Amish Mennonite bishop in organizing a Church at this place composed of members of both branches of the Church.

The petition was signed by eighteen members. After the question was discussed for some time, the petition was granted, and bishop J. P. Miller was appointed with permission to choose another Mennonite bishop to coöperate with an Amish Mennonite bishop in organizing said Church.

A committee was appointed to see to the defraying of the expenses of bishops while ministering to the poor or smaller congregations. Deacons, N. S. Hoover, D. H. Coffman and J. H. Bare were appointed.

It was decided that the next conference be held at the Yellow Creek Church, beginning on Thursday preceding the second Friday in October, 1904.

There being no other business Bro. J. F. Funk offered the closing prayer, and after singing, "Blest be the tie that binds," conference adjourned.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church, October 13, 14, 1904

Report of the Indiana-Michigan Conference held at the Yellow Creek M. H., Elkhart Co., Ind., Oct. 13 and 14, 1904.

Conference was opened at 10:30 Thursday forenoon by John Garber who read Eph. 5:15-33 and led in prayer. J. M. Shenk acted as chairman pro tem. Bro. Shenk was elected moderator

and David Burkholder, assistant moderator. J. S. Hartzler was elected secretary for three years. N. S. Hoover was elected assistant secretary.

On motion Jacob Bixler, Samuel Honderich, and D. H. Coffman were elected committee on resolutions. The forenoon session was closed with a benedictory prayer by J. S. Hartzler.

Thursday afternoon session was opened by Samuel Honderich who read John 15:9-20 and led in prayer. The conference sermon by J. M. Shenk was based upon Eph. 4:11-13. He said in part: Unity of faith is one of the leading purposes of conference. Such unity can be brought about only by a close unity with God. The greatest question which should concern us is the upbuilding of the Christian Church. I see more than ever the importance of our conference work in the accomplishment of this end. The means are at hand to accomplish a hundredfold more than has been accomplished in the past if the church wakes up to a sense of her duty.

If all knew the importance of the gospel of peace, we would not hear of the horrors of war and bloodshed as we do now. We may be responsible for not having published that doctrine as we should have done. Christ could teach non-resistance because He had the true non-resistant spirit. His actions towards the Samaritans illustrate this. "Let the Christ life shine in me" in every phase of my life. Outward profession alone, is worth nothing. We must be in possession of the indwelling Spirit.

There are many who do not know what their standing with God is, because they have not been real anxious to know. The fullness of the Spirit in us will prompt to truthfulness and no oath will be necessary.

The aims and objects of secrecy are entirely outside the mission of the Christian Church. Let the church do her duty and secret organizations will not be necessary.

Non-conformity is the inevitable result of the Christ life within. It is by God's grace that we are so highly favored. He wants us to be real teachable so that He can make the most of us. "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."

The ministers, bishops, and deacons responded heartily in their endorsements to the thoughts presented in the sermon. The brotherhood testified to the thoughts presented by rising. The afternoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. Metzler.

Friday Forenoon

Jacob Bixler read Eph. 6:10-24 and led in prayer. Decided that certain questions should be handed to the committee on resolutions to be framed into resolutions in order to save time.

Ques. 1. How may we keep the members of the church in a prosperous condition so that they can be bright and shining lights and fitted for the Master's service?

Ans. First, by keeping each member active in the interests of the church; second, by building up a strong prayer life; third, by warning them against harboring any spiritual dross which will poison the members and finally the entire body of Christ; fourth, by keeping them supplied with the bread and water of life; fifth, by implanting Bible principles in childhood; sixth, by requiring fruits of repentance on admission to church membership; seventh, by taking special care of the lambs and straying sheep. (Prov. 22:6; Luke 3:8; John 6:35; I Cor. 5:6, 7; I Tim. 2:8; Jas. 5:13-16.)

Ques. 2. What are some of the essential qualifications in a minister for successful personal work?

Ans. First, a deep prayer life; second, a deep love for the lost; third, a clean life, free from evil thoughts; fourth, a natural outflowing of the spiritual life. (Matt. 9:4, 36-38; Acts 1:14; Phil. 4:8.)

Ques. 3. Inasmuch as of recent years the duties of some of the civil offices have changed and also some new offices have originated, therefore what offices does this conference consider proper for our brethren to hold?

Ans. Resolved, That our brethren are not to hold any civil office where they are required to administer oath or enforce the law. (Matt. 5:33-37; I Cor. 6:1-8; Rom. 12:18, 19.)

The forenoon session was closed with prayer by the moderator.

The afternoon session was opened by Samuel Rhodes, who read Rom. 12 and led in prayer.

Ques. 4. Does this conference consider it advisable to appoint a committee to look after the weak congregations and see that they are supplied with ministers?

Ans. Resolved, That a committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to look after the needs of the weak congregations in new fields, and where necessary try to find ministers (experienced, if possible) who will locate with such congregations. Also urge the ordination of able men who will aid in the work. The bishops Shenk, Burkholder, and Garber were appointed a committee who with two others of their own choosing shall appoint three brethren who shall act on this committee. The committee appointed were Jacob Christophel, Noah Hoover, and Jacob Shenk. They were appointed to serve three, two, and one years, respectively.

Resolved, That this conference grant the ordination of a minister in the White Cloud (Michigan) congregation; a minister in

the Olive (Indiana) congregation, and a deacon in the DeKalb County (Indiana) congregation.

Resolved, That the Mennonite part of the congregation at Goshen be considered as belonging to the Western Bishop district.

Whereas, this conference granted the request to organize a congregation at Goshen, composed of both Mennonite and Amish Mennonite members, and Whereas, such congregation was not organized, and Whereas, the brethren Burkholder and Johns have visited the brotherhood and taken a council, and Whereas, all favored such organization and agreed to submit to the rulings of both conferences represented by the bishops D. J. Johns and David Burkholder and their successors, and that any conflict in conference regulations be interpreted by these two bishops and the ministers in charge of this (the Goshen) congregation and agreed to submit to such interpretations, therefore be it,

Resolved, That this conference authorize Bro. Burkholder to ask the coöperation of Bro. Johns in effecting such organization.

The congregation gave vent to the general good feeling existing by singing, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." Closing remarks by Bro. Burkholder, and prayer by Bro. Royer.

Conference adjourned to meet Thursday, October 8, 1905, with the Salem congregation.

Bishops present: John M. Shenk, Elida, O.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers present: Jacob Shenk, Elkhart, Ind.; Samuel Honderich, Goshen, Ind.; Jacob Bixler, Wakarusa, Ind.; John F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; D. H. Bender, Elkhart, Ind.; Samuel Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; Harvey Friesner, Vistula, Ind.; Noah Metzler, Nappanee, Ind.; John Hygema, Wakarusa, Ind.; J. S. Lehman, Elkhart, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Shipshewana, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, Goshen, Ind.; Jacob Christophel, Goshen, Ind.; Oscar Hostetler, Topeka, Ind.; Josiah Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Yost Miller, Lagrange, Ind.; George Lambert, Elkhart, Ind.; Samuel Rhodes, Dale Enterprise, Va.; I. W. Royer, Goshen, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.

Deacons present: J. C. Hershberger, Middlebury, Ind.; Menno Yoder, Topeka, Ind.; John Baer, New Paris, Ind.; Jacob Wisler, Elkhart, Ind.; D. H. Coffman, Elkhart, Ind.; N. S. Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; Abraham Culp, Wakarusa, Ind.

J. S. Hartzler,
N. S. Hoover,
Secretaries.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Salem Church, October 12, 13, 1905

Report of the Indiana-Michigan Conference (Fall) held at the Salem M. H., Elkhart Co., Ind., Oct. 12 and 13, 1905.

Friday Forenoon

After a short session in the bishop's council, conference was opened by J. P. Miller, reading as an opening lesson Eph. 4:1-16. Noah Metzler led in prayer. The organization resulted as follows: Moderator, David Burkholder; assistant moderator, J. P. Miller; assistant secretary, N. O. Blosser, committee on resolutions, the brethren J. K. Bixler, N. S. Hoover, John F. Funk.

Bro. N. O. Blosser delivered the conference sermon. Text, Eph. 2:19-22. Jesus Christ is the true foundation. Our hearts should be open to every part of His teachings; not simply sin, repentance, love, etc., but these and all other teachings of the sacred Word should find a place in the heart of every child of God. Let there be an awakening in the ministry and let the brotherhood be taught the whole will of God, and with hearts full of love let ministry and laity go forth in earnest prayer, not only knowing but doing the whole will of God. When we transgress God's Word we as individuals and the church as a body must suffer some time. Not only the ministry, but every member should carefully study the Word of God, so that they may be able to give an answer for the hope that is within them and at the same time live out the principles of God's Word.

After the bishops had expressed their approval and added some remarks, the forenoon session was closed with prayer by Noah Metzler.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session was opened by Eli Stofer, reading Phil. 2:1-11, and leading in prayer. The ministers and deacons gave testimony to the conference sermon. The brotherhood then expressed their approval by rising.

Ques. 1. Whose duty is it to enforce conference resolutions?

Resolved, That erring members be admonished in the spirit of love, and when refusing to comply with conference resolutions the matter be presented by the minister or bishop to the congregation, who shall enforce said resolution and decide the penalty.

Conference was closed with prayer by John F. Funk.

Friday Forenoon Session

Services were opened by Oscar Hostetler, who read Psalm 22 and led in prayer.

Ques. 2. What are some of the essentials for successful personal work?

Ans. (1) A deep spiritual concern for the lost; (2) earnest prayer; (3) a proper way of approach; (4) exercise in the work; (5) divine guidance; (6) no respect of persons; (7) a pure life.

Ques. 3. What should the church do in the way of establishing mission stations in connection with our home church?

Resolved, That each congregation having available workers appoint a committee of mission-filled members to find locations and conduct services there, and put forth all efforts to establish mission stations and congregations.

The forenoon session was closed with prayer by J. K. Bixler.

Afternoon Session

The services were opened by Amos Cripe, who read II Cor. 4.

Ques. 4. Does this conference favor the ordination of ministers at large?

Yes.

Ques. 5. How shall congregations be dealt with that neglect to comply with conference rules and decisions?

Resolved, That for an answer to this question we refer to the answer to Ques. 1 of this conference.

Resolutions

1. Resolved, That the moderator appoint three brethren, who with the bishops shall constitute a committee to frame a constitution and by-laws for the Indiana-Michigan conference, and present the same to our next annual conference for consideration and adoption.

2. Resolved, That a committee of three brethren be elected by ballot as delegates to our General Conference. J. K. Bixler, J. S. Hartzler, and D. H. Coffman were elected.

3. Resolved, That conference approve of the work of the Mennonite Evangelizing and Benevolent Board.

4. Resolved, That the traveling expenses of the committee appointed to look after the needy congregations be paid out of the same fund as the bishop's expenses while ministering to such congregations.

5. Resolved, That a committee be appointed to investigate the Scriptural authority for ordaining and appointing deaconesses and also the time and occasion when this custom was originated or practiced in the history of the Christian church. The committee appointed was John F. Funk, J. S. Hartzler, and Geo. Lambert.

A committee, consisting of John F. Funk, Jacob Christophel, and N. S. Hoover with the bishops, was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws for the Indiana-Michigan conference for consideration and adoption.

A motion was passed that the bishops act as a committee to appoint a brother to take the place of Bro. Shenk, whose term has expired as a member on the committee to supply ministers for the needy congregations. Bro. Jonas Loucks was appointed.

On motion the brethren Jacob Christophel, N. S. Hoover, and Daniel Beery were empowered to sell and convey the Mennonite church property in Branch Co., Mich., to the highest bidder.

Moved and seconded that Bro. D. Burkholder be asked to write an article for the Herald of Truth showing the governmental relations of bishop and ministers to the congregation. Bro. John F. Funk consented to send a copy of the Herald containing said article to every family in the Indiana-Michigan conference, provided the ministers would furnish the names and addresses of the heads of the families in their congregations.

Bro. N. S. Hoover gave a report of the committee appointed to collect funds to pay the expenses of the bishops in visiting the weaker congregations to hold communion or baptismal services. Report was accepted.

Conference sanctioned the ordination of (1) a minister in the Salem congregation, (2) a deacon in the Elkhart congregation, and (3) a deacon in the Goshen congregation, provided the consent of the congregations can be obtained.

A collection was taken to defray the traveling expenses of the delegates to the General Conference. Amount collected, $32.69.

Bro. J. S. Hartzler was appointed to preach the conference sermon at the next annual conference or to supply some one for that purpose.

Decided that our next conference be held at the Clinton Brick M. H., on Thursday preceding the third Friday in October, 1906.

By a unanimous vote this conference sends its love and respect to the General Conference.

The afternoon session was closed with prayer by Y. C. Miller. All went away with a seemingly good feeling at the harmony and good will that was manifested throughout the entire conference session.

Bishops present: David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; J. P. Miller, Big Prairie, Mich.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers present: John F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; Samuel Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; John Springer, Big Prairie, Mich.; N. O. Blosser, New Stark, O.; J. S. Hartzler,

Goshen, Ind.; George Lambert, Elkhart, Ind.; Eli Stofer, Hudson, Ind.; Noah Metzler, Nappanee, Ind.; John Hygema, Wakarusa, Ind.; J. K. Bixler, Wakarusa, Ind.; Yost Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, Goshen, Ind.; Samuel Honderich, Goshen, Ind.; Jacob Christophel, Goshen, Ind.; Oscar Hostetler, Topeka, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Topeka, Ind.; Harvey Freisner, Vistula, Ind.; Jacob Shenk, Elkhart, Ind.; Silas Yoder, Goshen, Ind.

Deacons present: N. S. Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; John Baer, Nappanee, Ind.; Menno Yoder, Topeka, Ind.; Jacob Hershberger, Middlebury, Ind.; Samuel Smeltzer, Wakarusa, Ind.; D. H. Coffman, Goshen, Ind.; Jacob Wisler, Elkhart, Ind.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Clinton Brick M. H., Elkhart, Ind., October 11, 12, 1906

After a short session in the bishops' council, conference was opened by song and prayer. Bro. Moses Brenneman read Eph. 4 and led in prayer.

The organization resulted as follows: Bro. David Burkholder, moderator; Bro. John Garber, assistant moderator; Bro. Jacob K. Bixler, assistant secretary; Bro. D. H. Coffman, treasurer.

The moderator appointed the brethren Samuel Honderich, B. B. King, and Jacob Christophel as a committee on resolutions.

Bro. J. S. Hartzler, having been appointed at the last conference to preach the conference sermon, took as a text Matt. 6:10, "Thy kingdom come." He said in part: The effects of the kingdom extend as far as righteousness extends. "The kingdom of God is within you," and "is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." This peace and joy is different from that of the world.

The kingdom of God can bring about great outward changes only so far as transformation has taken place in the heart. Outward changes are not always an index of the kingdom within, nevertheless the kingdom of God will bring about outward changes.

The kingdom of God is here but we want it in greater fullness—in our own hearts, in the hearts of those who have it not, in every church, in every institution until "the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea." When the primitive church began to ask for that kingdom to come, persecutions came, as a result the kingdom of God was spread.

The kingdom of God coming has changed the home, the condition of womanhood, yea, even the condition of jails, asylums, etc.

All can aid in spreading that kingdom. This conference

should mean much in the enlargement of that kingdom. Let us pray for it. Let us frame our talks to aid it so that coming generations may know not only theoretically but also experimentally, what it is to have the kingdom in their hearts and souls and lives.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons gave testimony to the sermon and expressed a desire to maintain the teachings of the Bible and the doctrines of the church.

The forenoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. J. F. Funk.

Thursday Afternoon

Bro. J. E. Hartzler read the 24th Psalm and led in prayer, after which the brotherhood also expressed, by a rising vote, their willingness to show by their example that they have a desire to live for God and His kingdom.

The committee appointed to draw up a Constitution and By-laws were ready to give their report. The balance of the afternoon and evening and the greater part of Friday forenoon was devoted to the discussion and adoption of the same.

Resolved, That a copy of this Constitution and By-laws be put into each congregation, and the members be earnestly requested to ratify the same.

Friday Afternoon

Bro. John Baer read the 1st Psalm and led in prayer.

Ques. 1.—Is it consistent for our brethren to have lightning rods on their buildings?

Ans. Inasmuch as the Apostle Paul teaches in Rom. 14:15, "But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat for whom Christ died," and inasmuch as lightning rods cause offense we disapprove of the use of the same (Rom. 14:15; I Cor. 10:31-33).

Ques. 2. What is the attitude of this conference in regard to our brethren engaging in such questionable business as selling mining stock?

Ans. Whereas we are forbidden to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, and are not to defraud one another, we believe it to be decidedly wrong, and this conference does not approve the selling of questionable mining stock (II Cor. 6:14; Lev. 19:13; Rom. 12:17; I Thes. 4:6).

Ques. 3. Would it be more scriptural to use the unfermented than the fermented wine in the communion?

Ans. Whereas Christ advises us to use the fruit of the vine, and in order to avoid temptation to the weak, we, as a conference, recommend the use of the pure unfermented wine at the communion services (Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25).

Miscellaneous Business

Bro. Anglemeyer brought a message of greeting from the Franconia Conference which was gladly accepted and the brother was asked to carry a like message back to his own conference.

Bro. Noah Hoover gave a report of the committee appointed to collect funds to pay the traveling expenses of bishops and ministers in aiding weaker congregations. Bro. John Baer, having been ordained to the ministry, asked to be relieved from that committee. Bro. Jonas Brubaker was elected in his stead to serve on the committee for a period of three years. Decided that Bro. D. H. Coffman's time to serve on said committee should continue one year more and Bro. Noah Hoover's time two years more.

The committee was instructed to invest the money received from the Branch Co. (Mich.) congregation and the income to be disposed of by decision of conference.

The committee appointed to dispose of the Branch Co. church property having paid one hundred dollars on the debt of the church at Teegarden, Ind., were advised not to hold this as a debt against the latter church. Future arrangements for this place were left to the brotherhood of the Holdeman congregation.

Decided that no interest should be asked from the Mennonite Brethren in Christ on the notes held against them by this conference, provided they pay off the notes when they become due.

Bro. Noah Hoover was reëlected on the committee to supply workers for needy congregations.

On motion it was decided that 1500 copies of the Constitution and By-laws of the conference be printed and each congregation supplied with at least one for each family.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Bro. David Burkholder, moderator; Bro. John Garber, assistant moderator; Bro. D. H. Coffman, treasurer.

Decided that the next conference shall be held at the Nappanee M. H.

Decided that the moderator appoint some one to preach the next conference sermon.

Closing prayer by Bro. J. S. Hartzler.

These were two busy days and while there were differences of opinions at times on certain subjects, there was manifested a spirit of forbearance which made us all feel that it was good for us to be there.

The following bishops, ministers, and deacons were present:

Bishops.—David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers.—J. K. Bixler, Wakarusa, Ind; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, Wakarusa, Ind.; B. B. King, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Topeka, Ind.; Oscar Hostetler, Topeka, Ind; J. F.

Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; Isaac Weaver, Alto, Mich.; Joseph Hooley, Middlebury, Ind.; John Hygema, Wakarusa, Ind ; Noah Metzler, Nappanee, Ind.; Harvey Friesner, Vistula, Ind.; Samuel Honderich, Goshen, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.; Jacob Christophel, Goshen, Ind.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; Moses Brenneman, Elida, Ohio; H. G. Anglemeyer, Springdale, Pa.; John Baer, Nappanee, Ind.; Perry Brunk, Elida, Ohio; A. J Hostetler, Middlebury, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; J. E. Hartzler, E. Lynne, Mo.

Deacons.—J. C. Hershberger, Middlebury, Ind.; S. S. Yoder, Middlebury, Ind.; Isaiah Christophel, Nappanee, Ind.; Jac. Mishler, Lagrange, Ind.; Jas. Hackman, Orrville, Ohio; Jacob Wisler, Elkhart, Ind.; Jonas Brubaker, Elkhart, Ind.; Frank Maust, Nappanee, Ind.; Menno Yoder, Topeka, Ind.; Amos Landis, Goshen, Ind.; D. H. Coffman, Goshen, Ind.; Noah Hoover, Goshen, Ind.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Nappanee M. H., October 10, 11, 1907

Bro. Eli Stofer conducted the devotional exercises, reading Romans 12, and leading in prayer.

Bro. J. F. Funk was appointed assistant secretary, and the brethren J. K. Bixler, G. L. Bender and D. H. Coffman committee on resolutions.

As the secretary's time had expired, he was asked to serve till the close of the conference.

Bro. J. K. Bixler preached the conference sermon. Text, I Cor. 16:13. These four expressions are the command of a general to his forces.

Watch as a shepherd and not as an eagle after prey. Watch that the weaker places are not neglected.

We may be steadfast yet be wrong. Our steadfastness must be "in the faith." Success is not determined by numbers but by steadfastness to Gospel principles. Conformity to the world is gaining ground. Intermarriage with the world is taking away many members and this subject needs to be faithfully taught. Our brethren are mixing too much with politics. When politics come in spirituality goes out.

We are to conduct ourselves like men, not like children. We need men that will boldly teach against the social evils.

There are important problems that we must face, such as needy congregations, support of the ministry so that there may be fewer poor sermons; how to get our members more spiritual and better established in the faith.

Discouragements are very contagious. The minister will inspire a like feeling in the members as his own. Remove the cause and the disease will take care of itself.

After the discourse, the bishops, ministers and deacons bore

testimony to the sermon and expressed a desire to uphold the teachings of the Bible and the practices of the church.

On investigation, it was found that the Constitution, Rules and Discipline passed upon by conference last year were not approved by a majority of the congregations. The brethren J. K. Bixler, J. S. Hartzler and G. L. Bender were appointed a committee to revise them and present them at next conference.

Closing prayer by Bro. Jacob Christophel.

Thursday Afternoon

Devotional exercises were conducted by Bro. J. F. Funk.

The minutes of last conference were read and approved.

Ques. 1. Do we as a conference approve of the proposed idea of holding our Sunday school conferences once every two or three years and in its stead have quarterly district Sunday school meetings of one day's session? If so, how should our district be divided?

Resolved, That this conference recommend the holding of local Sunday school meetings jointly with the Amish brethren during the next year. The brethren J. K. Bixler, Rudy Senger and G. L. Bender were appointed a committee to arrange for district Sunday school meetings.

Ques. 2. Can a husband and wife who have been expelled from the church for breaking the marriage vow, be received again as members as long as they are parted and not living together as husband and wife?

Resolved, That when one or both parties repent and show contrition for their sins and express a willingness to live with the other, they may be reinstated into church fellowship.

Ques. 3. Is it right for our people to make a display with flowers on funeral occasions by placing them on the casket and also on the pulpit?

Resolved, That we discourage all display at funerals, especially of flowers.

Ques. 4. Does the conference recommend mission study classes?

Ans. Yes.

Ques. 5 was discussed at some length. For want of time, it was left over to the next day.

Closing prayer by Bro. Henry Weldy.

Friday Forenoon

Bro. J. M. Hartzler read the 24th Psalm and led in prayer.

On motion, Ques. 5 was ruled out and the Committee on Resolutions was asked to frame a resolution embodying the thought given in yesterday's discussion.

Ques. 6. What should be done with a brother who carries a life insurance policy?

Whereas, The term "life insurance" is itself misleading, and as such companies refuse "the poor, the lame, the maimed and the blind" as policy holders or receive them at an exorbitant rate, and as such companies are conducted for filthy lucre's sake, and,

Whereas, The church as established by Christ provides for its dependent members; therefore, be it

Resolved, That any person holding a life insurance or accident policy, after being given due time in which to withdraw from such companies and fails to do so, shall be expelled from the church (Jer. 17:5; 49:11; Luke 14:12-14; Eph. 5:1).

Ques. 7. What more can be done in this conference district to supply our needy congregations with ministers?

Resolved, That the bishops shall have the right to assign ministers to congregations where needed, with the consent of the ministers to be assigned and the congregations to which such assignments are made, when ratified by conference. The congregations from which such ministers are to be taken must show good reasons if such minister is to be retained. If there are not sufficient ministers in the bishop district, the bishop may ordain brethren from any congregation under his charge to be sent to such needy congregations.

Closing prayer by Bro. Geo. Lambert.

Friday Afternoon

Bro. Amos Cripe read John 15:1-17, and led in prayer.

It was asked that Ques. 1 of last year be reconsidered.

Ques. Is it consistent for our brethren to have lightning rods on their buildings?

The answer adopted was: Inasmuch as the Apostle Paul teaches in Romans 14:15, "But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat for whom Christ died;" and inasmuch as lightning rods cause offense we do not allow the use of the same. Members having them shall be given reasonable time to remove them, but failing to do so shall lose their membership (Rom. 14:15; I Cor. 10:31-33).

The brethren Jacob Christophel, N. S. Hoover and Daniel Beery were retained as a committee to look after the finances coming from the sale of the Branch Co. (Mich.) church house.

Resolutions

Resolutions, all of which were adopted:

1. That this conference sanctions the ordination of a bishop in Bro. Burkholder's district.

2. That we choose three brethren by ballot as delegates to the General Conference. J. K. Bixler, J. S. Hartzler and G. L. Bender were elected.

3. That we appoint Bro. C. K. Hostetler to act as director on the local board for Fort Wayne (Ind.) Mission.

4. That we appoint Bro. A. B. Kolb to act as director on the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities.

5. That we appoint Bro. J. S. Hartzler to act as director on the Mennonite Board of Education.

6. That a minister in each congregation be requested to correspond with Bro. I. R. Detweiler with a view of organizing a mission study class in each congregation.

7. That this conference approves of the church owning its own publishing interests and that this conference elect one member to act with the members already appointed by other conferences as a committee to arrange for such ownership. Bro. N. S. Hoover was appointed.

8. That Bro. J. S. Hartzler be appointed to act on the committee of arrangements at the General Conference.

On motion, it was decided to hold our next conference with the brotherhood at Elkhart.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Bro. David Burkholder, moderator; Bro. John Garber, assistant moderator; Bro. J. S. Hartzler, secretary; Bro. D. H. Coffman, treasurer.

Closing prayer by Bro. Jacob Christophel.

J. S. Hartzler,
J. F. Funk,
Secretaries.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at Elkhart, Indiana, October 7, 8, 1908

Conference was opened by Aldus Brackbill of Alto, Mich., by reading Titus 2 and leading in prayer.

The following committee on resolutions was appointed: J. K. Bixler, B. B. King, G. L. Bender.

The conference sermon was preached by N. H. Mack of New Holland, Pa. Text, Tit. 2:11-14.

We need to be taught again and again. The things around us tend to draw us away from that which is good. God's grace draws us. The work of the church is to bring the Gospel to the lost. The family, the Sunday school, and the church should be instrumental in this. Let all members of the church do their part. The wise and foolish virgins were alike to all appearances. The foolish had no oil, they were only copyists; they came too late and were locked out. Our work will go on record.

Bro. A. S. Mack of Bally, Pa., also took part in the conference sermon in the German language.

We must not be like the streams of Palestine which are dry most of the year, but like the great health-giving, life-flowing streams which flow from the throne of God.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons gave testimony to the sermon and added many beautiful thoughts.

The forenoon session was closed by prayer, led by Bro. J. S. Hartzler.

The afternoon session was opened by Bro. J. Blosser, who read James 1 and led in prayer.

The brotherhood then gave their testimony by a rising vote.

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to the general subject of missions, under the following sub-topics: Missionary efforts in Bible times; Reports from the missions represented here; Shall we have a local Mission Board?

The following brethren spoke on these topics: John Blosser, B. B. King, Noah Mack.

The afternoon session was closed by prayer by A. S. Mack.

The meeting on Friday morning was opened by J. C. Springer, who read Phil. 2 and led in prayer.

Sister Elsie Drange and Eva Harder, who are on their way to India as missionaries spoke for a few minutes. Their thoughts were well received.

The proposed constitution and discipline was read and accepted.

The question, Shall we have a local mission board? was taken up and discussed at some length. The following committee to investigate what work such boards do and what need they fill was appointed: J. K. Bixler, D. H. Coffman, and G. L. Bender.

The following brethren from the Bowne congregation were appointed trustees for the Caledonia congregation: Joseph Mishler, John Stahl, Samuel Dintaman.

The session was closed by prayer by D. J. Johns.

The afternoon session was opened by J. B. Brunk reading Psa. 78:1-22 and leading in prayer.

After consideration of the present county Local Option Law of Indiana it was decided that the matter of local option be left to every one's conscience.

It was decided that each congregation take up monthly or quarterly collections for the support of the various mission stations and charitable institutions.

The committee appointed to collect funds to defray the expenses of bishops visiting the weaker congregations reported as follows: Paid out, $12.23; received, $9.31; overdrawn, $2.92. D. H. Coffman was elected on this committee for three years.

Rudy Senger was appointed a member of the Local Mission

Board for the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Mission, and A. K. Miller of Elkhart was appointed a member of the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, and N. S. Hoover was reëlected a member of the Mennonite Publication Board.

It was decided to appoint three members on the committee to arrange the Sunday school conference program. Ezra S. Muller to serve one year; Earl Miller to serve two years; M. S. Wambold to serve three years. Hereafter one will be elected each year. Said committee is to work jointly with the committee appointed by the A. M. Conference.

The petition to ordain a minister in the Holdeman district was granted.

The brethren G. L. Bender, Warren Cable, and J. S. Hartzler were appointed a committee to arrange for the printing of the Constitution and Discipline.

N. S. Hoover was asked to care for the money paid in for the Branch County (Mich.) meetinghouse.

A collection amounting to $67.75 was taken to defray the expenses of the conference, amounting to $7.00, the balance to be given to the Fort Wayne Mission.

It was decided to hold the next conference at the Olive church.

It was decided that the Constitution and Discipline be printed as soon as it can be done, the copies sent out, and the votes taken in each congregation as to whether the congregation will accept them. The votes are to be reported to the secretary of conference within a month from the time the Constitution and Discipline is sent out.

The following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That we, as members of the Indiana-Michigan conference, assembled do hereby, through the bearers, Elsie Drange and Eva Harder, send greetings in the name of Jesus to the brethren and sisters in India, and pray that God may richly bless the work, and we assure them our hearty sympathy and support, both in prayers and means.

Resolved, That in answer to the dissatisfied members in the White Cloud congregation we give the following advice: Whereas the question as presented to conference is of such a nature that we can not consider it, we advise such members to comply with Art. VIII of the proposed Constitution and Discipline. If, after making due effort to comply with Matt. 18:15-18, and finding it impossible to present it before the congregation for adjustment, we advise that all the dissatisfied members form and sign a petition of appeal to the conference for consideration.

Resolved, That we release the committee on Constitution and

Discipline and that a committee of three be appointed to look after the matter and get two thousand printed in pamphlet form, to be distributed to every brother and sister in the conference district.

Since there is need for better methods in our Young People's Meetings this conference recommends that our local Sunday School Meetings and our Annual Sunday School Conference devote at least one session to the discussion of this work, and that the Publishing Committee provide by committee or editor a more definite way of preparing topics to be used in such meetings.

The election of officers for the next year resulted as follows: Moderator, J. K. Bixler; ass't., David Burkholder; treas., D. H. Coffman.

Closing prayer by S. E. Weaver.

More questions have been discussed at other conferences, more business done on other years, but this conference was certainly one of good feeling and unity. The members of this conference very much appreciated the presence of brethren from other conferences who added inspiration to the work by their presence and their word of warning as well as comfort. May the Lord bless the work done, may we all profit by the many precious thoughts given is our prayer.

Bishops.—David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; A. S. Mack, Bally, Pa.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; John Blosser, Rawson, Ohio; J. K. Bixler, Wakarusa, Ind.

Ministers.—J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; Samuel Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; Earl Suter, Harrisonburg, Va ; P. E. Whitmer, Goshen, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; J. H. Bare, Nappanee, Ind.; B. B. King, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.; O. S. Hostetler, Topeka, Ind.; Harvey Friesner, Vistula, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; Noah Mack, New Holland, Pa.; J. W. Christophel, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, Wakarusa, Ind.; P. E. Brunk, Elida, O.; Josiah Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; Ezra Mullet, Nappanee, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Topeka, Ind.; Aldus Brackbill, Alto, Mich.; S. E. Weaver, Goshen, Ind.; William Hartman, Wakarusa, Ind.; Amos Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind., J. B. Brunk, Goshen, Ind.; J. C. Springer, White Cloud, Mich.; Seth Hershberger, Shipshewana, Ind.; D. A. Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.

Deacons.—Jonas Brubaker, Elkhart, Ind.; Frank Maust, Nappanee, Ind.; G. L. Bender, Elkhart, Ind.; J. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.; D. H. Coffman, Goshen, Ind.; J. C. Hershberger, Middlebury, Ind.; Isaiah Christophel, Nappanee, Ind.; A. S. Landis, Goshen, Ind.; N. S. Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; M. J. Yoder, Topeka, Ind.

J. S. Hartzler, Sec

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Olive Church near Elkhart, Indiana, October 7, 8, 1909

Thursday

The forenoon services were opened by Bro. J. P. Miller. Lesson, Phil. 2:1-11. Prayer.

The brethren J. F. Funk, B. B. King, and J. W. Christophel were appointed a Committee on Resolutions.

Bro. David Burkholder preached the conference sermon, text, Isa. 28:16. Christ is the great builder and has laid the foundation. He uses human instrumentality to carry on His work. In that sense there are many builders. Some who claim to be servants of His are building on other and sandy foundation. Dowieism and Russelism are illustrations. Those that are built on the true Rock will stand, even in the midst of persecution. God has had His people and will continue to have them. If the Mennonite Church does not live according to the principles of Christ, He will cast them off and raise up a church that will. Bro. B. spoke of many of the restrictions and showed that the violations of these principles led to the destruction of the body. The brotherhood should be very watchful and prayerful to withstand all the evils around them so that the power of the Spirit may accomplish the work in us which God has for us to do.

The bishops, ministers and deacons in turn bore testimony to the sermon and added many precious thoughts. The forenoon session was closed with prayer led by Bro. John Gerber.

Bro. B. B. King opened the afternoon session by reading Josh. 1:1-9 and leading in prayer.

The Constitution and Discipline having received the required majority of votes of the brotherhood was declared adopted.

Ques. 1. How can we cultivate loyalty to God and the Church?

Ans. 1. Get right with God. 2. Study the Word and learn in what loyalty consists. 3. Stand faithful and true to every duty that the Word of God and the church demands of us. Psa. 1.

The committee appointed to consider the advisability of having a Local Mission Board reported through its chairman, Bro. Bixler, but for want of time the matter was deferred until the next day.

Closing prayer by Bro. J. P. Miller.

Friday

Devotional services by Bro. O. S. Hostetler who read Psa. 19 and led in prayer. The discussion of questions was then resumed.

After a prolonged discussion of a question as to the right and wrong of signing ditch or road petitions or remonstrances, the question was tabled.

Ques. 3. How can we stimulate higher spiritual life in negligent and indifferent members?

Ans. 1. Show your interest in their lives by getting in close touch with them, and have them feel the necessity of being active as a member of the body of Christ. 2. Visit, pray and instruct regarding the necessity of a consecrated life. 3. Give them food for their souls.

Ques. 4. Is it scriptural for a brother to fit up a room in a building especially for the purpose of being used as a skating rink and rent it to other parties to carry on the business?

Ans. We refer the church to Art. 18, Sec. 2 of the Discipline.

Ques. 5. What is the attitude of this conference with regard to our brethren running automobile garages and taking people to shows, fairs, and to other places of like nature, or who carry on the business on Sunday, hauling people for the sake of making money?

Ans. See Art. 18, Sec. 10.

Closing prayer by Bro. J. W. Christophel.

The opening service for the afternoon session was led by Bro. J. F. Funk.

Ques. 6. What position does this conference take toward family reunions?

Ans. Family reunions that are held in a way that the meeting may redound to the glory of God, are beneficial and proper, but the many meetings of this kind that are becoming popular in our day are certainly not commendable.

Ques. 7. What should be done so that more souls may be saved through the instrumentality of the Church?

Ans. The Church should spend more time in prayer; do more personal work among the unsaved; look after neglected places and have them supplied with workers who have strong convictions for mission work. Ministers should use every opportunity to encourage among the members the work of saving souls.

Miscellaneous business.

The brethren J. K. Bixler, G. L. Bender, and D. H. Coffman with such others as they may choose were asked to formulate a plan and effect an organization for a Local Mission Board and submit the same to the next conference.

Bro. Aldus Brackbill was given charge of the work at Caledonia, Mich., for another year. Bro. Isaac Weaver is to assist in the work.

Bro. N. S. Hoover was reëlected as a member of the committee to collect funds to pay traveling expenses for the bishops in

going to the poorer congregations to hold communion. His term of office to be three years except the committee on Local Mission Board should include the work of this committee.

Bro. Rudy Senger was reëlected on Fort Wayne Local Mission Board, and Bro. N. S. Hoover was reëlected on the Mennonite Publication Board.

Bro. E. S. Mullet was reëlected on the S. S. Conference Program Committee.

The money received from the sale of the Branch County meetinghouse was ordered given to Fort Wayne Mission, to pay for a lot adjoining the mission and the balance to be kept as a building fund.

Brethren G. L. Bender. J. W. Christophel, and J. S. Hartzler were chosen as delegates to the General Conference.

Permission was granted to ordain a bishop in the bishop district west of Goshen, and to ordain a minister in the White Cloud congregation.

The secretary was asked to get blank church reports printed.

The report of churches shows 19 congregations, lost by letter 61, by death, 23, by backsliding or expulsion 17, series of meetings 15, Bible conferences 9, received by baptism 77, by letter 66, from other denominations 9, reclaimed 7, gain since last conference 66. Total membership 1387.

The treasurer's report showed as follows: Collected at conference last year, $62.30. Interest, $12.00. Paid out for printing, $18.00; for freight, $1.00; to Fort Wayne Mission, $55.30.

Bro. J. F. Funk was asked to visit the brotherhood in Clay and Owen counties, and give a report at the next conference.

The following officers were elected: Bro. David Burkholder, moderator; Bro. John Garber, assistant moderator; Bro. D. H. Coffman, treasurer.

The next conference is to be held at the Holdeman Church.

Resolutions

I. Whereas numerous Sunday schools are feeling the need of a song book in addition to the Church and Sunday School Hymnal and some are obtaining such books, which practice will soon result in breaking the beautiful unity which has been brought into our singing by the use of the Hymnal, and,

Whereas many standard church tunes and devotional songs which our Hymnal does not supply are needed in our church services, and,

Whereas songs bearing on worship, praise, faith, atonement, fellowship, communion with the Holy Spirit, and kindred subjects are too limited in number, be it,

Resolved, That this Conference urges, that as soon as practical, a supplement to the Church and Sunday School Hymnal shall be issued which shall be bound within the unbound Hym-

nals, and also bound separately for the benefit of congregations now using the Hymnals.

II. Resolved, That we advise each congregation as far as practical to hold services each Lord's day, and that our church houses be not given to other denominations to hold services regularly.

Good interest and good feeling prevailed throughout the conference which seemed to be further stimulated by the very fine weather.

Bishops.—J. K. Bixler, Wakarusa, Ind.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; J. P. Miller, White Cloud, Mich.

Ministers.—Isaac Weaver, Alto, Mich.; Silas Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Samuel Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; E. S. Mullet, Nappanee, Ind.; J. W. Christophel, Wakarusa, Ind.; D. A. Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; P. E. Whitmer, Goshen, Ind.; B. B. King, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; William Hartman, Wakarusa, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; J. H. Bare, Nappanee, Ind.; Aldus Brackbill, Clarksville, Mich.; Amos Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; George Lambert, Elkhart, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Seth Hershberger, Shipshewana, Ind.; Josiah Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; O. S. Hostetler, Topeka, Ind.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; S. E. Weaver, Goshen, Ind.; I. R. Detweiler, Goshen, Ind.; J. B. Brunk, Goshen, Ind.; A. S. Cripe, Topeka, Ind.

Deacons.—Samuel Smeltzer, Wakarusa, Ind.; Isaiah Christophel, Nappanee, Ind.; N. S. Hoover, Goshen, Ind.; A. S. Landis, Goshen, Ind.; J. C. Hershberger, Middlebury, Ind.; M. J. Yoder, Topeka, Ind.; Jonas Brubaker, Elkhart, Ind.; G. L. Bender, Elkhart, Ind.

Delegates.—C. E. Reed, Hudson, Ind.

J. S. Hartzler, Sec.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church, Wakarusa, Ind., October 13, 14, 1910

Conference was opened by Bro. Eli Stofer. Lesson, Psa. 84 and prayer.

Moderators, David Burkholder, David Yoder; Committee on Resolutions, J. E. Hartzler, Aldus Brackbill, S. E. Weaver; Secretaries, Paul E. Whitmer, N. S. Hoover.

Bro. J. F. Funk had been appointed to preach the Conference sermon, but could not be present on account of a funeral.

Bro. Paul E. Whitmer then gave the conference address. Text, Jas. 2:14.

We believe James wished to place special stress on the thought that it is necessary to prove their faith by their works. More is required than the making of a profession. A spirit unit is highly necessary. The brotherhood does not seem to take to heart the importance of conference resolutions. A lack of interest and obedience is manifested towards church rules. The Church has long said that the taking part in worldly amusements is detri-

mental to spiritual life. A more strict obedience on this line is especially necessary. True consecration is needful. We should remember the promises we made when uniting with the Church. We should have a greater zeal for the house of God and the Sabbath. There is danger in following Christ afar off. We should have more spiritual power and stand as witnesses for Christ.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons bore testimony to the truth of the sermon, and manifested a willingness to abide by Christ and the Church.

Thursday forenoon closed by prayer by Yost C. Miller.

Thursday Afternoon

Opened by J. E. Hartzler. Lesson, Isa. 35. Prayer by A. Brackbill.

Ques. 1. Does this conference recommend the appointing of one or more lay members from each congregation to act with the ministry in conference work?

Ans. Resolved that our Constitution be amended so as to make Art. II, Sec. 2 read: "Each congregation shall be further represented by laymen chosen by the laity, one for every hundred members or fraction thereof." (The proposed amendment is to be presented before the next conference.)

Ques. 2. Does this conference deem it advisable for a brother who is not a minister to act as instructor in Bible Conference?

Ans. It is the sense of this Conference that teaching is recognized as a spiritual gift (Eph. 4:11) and that it would be advisable for a brother so gifted to act as instructor in Bible Conference work—provided that such brother be recommended by his home congregation. (Rom. 12:6, 7).

Ques. 3. Explain: "From him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away" (Matt. 5:42). Suppose he wishes to borrow money.

Ans. We believe that Jesus was teaching the principles that make for brotherliness among men, and that as members of His kingdom we should always be interested in the needs of our fellowmen and never turn them ruthlessly away (Luke 6:33-36; Deut. 15:7, 8).

Thursday afternoon session closed by prayer by A. Brackbill.

Friday Forenoon

Conference opened by J. H. McGowen.

Lesson, Psa. 27. Prayer.

Ques. 4. What attitude does this conference take toward a brother who has sued a non-professor, at the law, and has taken away his property?

Ans. For an answer to this question we refer to Art. XXI, Sec. 1, in Constitution and Discipline.

Art. XXI, Sec. 1: "Law suits should under all circumstances be avoided. Any member who becomes an aggressive party to a law-suit or allows himself to become involved in a law-suit, when the same could have been easily avoided, shall be considered under censure of the Church" (Matt. 5:40; Rom. 12:17-21; I Cor. 6:1-8).

Ques. 5. How can we prevent our members from drifting into worldliness so fast and get them to be more spiritual and loyal to the Church?

Ans. Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that drifting into worldliness by our members may in part be prevented by more scriptural teaching and scriptural living in the home by the parents. By more faithful teaching in the pulpit, by showing the unreasonableness of worldliness and by living consistent, consecrated lives (Rom. 12:1, 2; I Jno. 2:15) and by praying for those who are wrong.

Spirituality and loyalty to the Church may be gained by studying the Word of God and taking it as our guide (Psa. 119: 130). By urging more service on our members—letting every one feel that the Church is in the community for the salvation of such community. By every member being willing to remove individual hindrances; by keeping up the fight to the end of life and by "speaking the word in love."

Ques. 6. Does this Conference deem it advisable for the Bishops and Secretaries to meet some time before the Conference meets and arrange questions and other matters for Conference?

Ans. Resolved, That the bishops and secretaries (and others that it may be necessary for them to choose) to meet at least four weeks before conference to arrange questions and other matters for conference; the questions and other necessary information to be sent to each member of conference at least three weeks before conference meets.

Closing prayer by George Lambert.

Friday Afternoon

S. E. Weaver opened services by reading Eph. 4 and prayer.

Ques. 7. Has a Christian a right to take a mortgage or security on a note?

Ans. Resolved, That it is proper and right for a Christian to hold mortgages, but that we advise that such Christian hold same in a Christian spirit and not violate non-resistant principles.

Miscellaneous business was transacted as follows:

The action of the Sunday school conference appointing a field man to look after our Sunday school work and appointing a field man to look after our young people's meetings—was sanctioned.

The brethren, P. E. Whitmer, G. L. Bender, and D. H. Coff-

man were appointed to formulate plans and effect an organization for a local Mission Board.

Jonas Brubaker was reëlected as a member on the committee to raise funds to pay bishop's traveling expenses in ministering to small and poor congregations.

The committee appointed to sell the Branch Co., Mich., meeting house reported the money paid over as requested by last conference. Said committee was excused.

Rudy Senger was reëlected on Fort Wayne Mission Board.

P. E. Whitmer was appointed on committee to arrange programme for State S. S. Conference.

N. S. Hoover was reëlected on Publication Board and director on Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities.

Reports from 16 congregations show: lost by letter, 51; by death, 7; by backsliding, 23; series of meetings, 15; Bible conferences, 5; received by baptism, 115; by letter, 48; from other denominations, 10; reclaimed, 18; gained since last conference, 80.

The conference sent a resolution expressing our sympathy for the bereaved family of J. C. Springer, who was buried on the last day of conference.

Also a resolution of sympathy and good wishes was sent to J. K. Bixler and wife who were sick with typhoid fever.

Officers elected were David Burkholder, Moderator; Paul E. Whitmer, Asst. Moderator; J. S. Hartzler, Secretary, for three years; D. H. Coffman, Treasurer.

Next Conference to be held at the Shore Church.

Closing remarks by Moderator. Prayer by I. R. Detwiler.

Secretaries.

List of bishops, ministers, and deacons in attendance:

Bishops.—David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; David A. Yoder, Wakarusa, Ind.; Daniel Kauffman, Scottdale, Pa.

Ministers.—John H. Bare, Nappanee, Ind.; Aldus Brackbill, Clarksville, Mich.; Jacob W. Christophel, Wakarusa, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Harvey Friesner, Vistula, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, Wakarusa, Ind.; Samuel Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.; Paul E. Whitmer, Goshen, Ind.; Silas Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; William G. Sieber, Mifflintown, Pa.; E. S. Mullet, Nappanee, Ind.; Amos Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; T. U. Nelson, White Cloud, Mich.; Josiah Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; S. E. Weaver, Goshen, Ind.; Geo. Lambert, Elkhart, Ind.; J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; A. K. Ropp, Goshen, Ind.; I. R. Detweiler, Goshen, Ind.; William Hartman, Elkhart, Ind.

Deacons.—Isaiah Christophel, Nappanee, Ind.; Samuel Smeltzer, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jonas Brubaker, Elkhart, Ind.; Harvey Sarver, White Cloud, Mich.; A. S. Landis, Goshen, Ind.; Frank Maust, Nappanee, Ind.; J. G. Wenger, Harper, Kans.; Benjamin Brenneman, Mohea, Va.; G. L. Bender, Elkhart, Ind.; I. B. Witmer, Columbiana, Ohio; I. S. Johns, Goshen, Ind.; N. S. Hoover, Goshen, Ind.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Shore Church, Shipshewana, Ind., October 12, 13, 1911

Conference was opened with devotional services conducted by Bish. J. P. Miller, who read Phil. 2:1-11 and led in prayer. This was followed by a few short admonitions by several brethren, after which Bro. J. F. Funk preached the conference sermon from I Cor. 3:9. He said in part:

"I have been a member of this Conference for nearly half a century. My work on earth is nearly done. My heart goes out in love for the cause of Christ. My memory goes back for more than fifty years and when I consider the work of the Church and the life of it, I see a great change.

"We are standing in the very doorway of great changes. The changes that have come will bring changes in the future. We should carefully consider the Sunday School and Church literature and see whether there are not things in them that will be detrimental. The Church schools as well as the other institutions of the Church need to be examined with great care. There is danger on every hand. Satan is about us on every side.

"That there are doctrines in the Church that should not be is evident from the fact that there are so many who do not care about doctrine. Church discipline is another thing that is fading away like the dew before the morning sun and personal friends are frequently let go when God would condemn their actions. The true minister will proceed according to God's plan, even if that goes against his own brother.

As true ministers we need to preach a knowledge of condemning sin, repentance and conversion. We seldom hear such sermons now. In revival meetings that kind of food is seldom given. People will not come if this is made too strong.

"The scriptures teach strongly that we should be a people separate from the world. What is it to be separate from the world? We need to use the world but not abuse it, to keep ourselves unspotted from it. We can not consult what brings ease, pleasure, or comfort. We must stand for God even if it means suffering, imprisonment, or death. Let us be faithful.

"I have implicit faith in the Mennonite Church and her doctrines. No other church has given so much liberty of faith and liberty of speech. Her doctrines are the doctrines of the Bible. Let us uphold them."

After several of the bishops and ministers had given response to the sermon the forenoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. Jonathan Kurtz.

Thursday Afternoon

Bro. J. K. Bixler opened the afternoon session by reading Eph. 6:10-20 and leading in prayer. After the six bishops, twenty-seven ministers, and nine deacons had responded by short but inspirational talks and the congregation declared their willingness to labor with the ministry in the upbuilding of the kingdom of God on the principles as they were set forth rising to their feet, Conference was ready to take up Question 1. The moderator appointed the brethren, J. K. Bixler, D. A. Yoder, and S. L. Weldy a committee on resolutions.

Ques. 1. Should ministers change locations without the consent of the congregations interested? The subject was opened by Bro. T. U. Nelson.

Ans. Whereas the minister is but the servant of God and the Church and his whole aim should be the upbuilding of the kingdom, be it,

Resolved, That the ministers get the consent of both congregations interested; That congregations consider his reasons for change in the light of the Gospel and act accordingly. When this can not be done satisfactorily, act according to Art. 8, Sec. 1 of the Discipline.

As Question 2 was tabled it will not be given here.

The afternoon session was closed by prayer by Bro. A. S. Cripe.

The evening was devoted to a discussion of the subject, The Minister. Eleven brethren each gave a six minute talk on an assigned sub-division of the general subject.

Friday Forenoon

Bro. Henry Weldy led in the devotion by reading the 19th Psalm and leading in prayer.

Bro. J. S. Hartzler discussed the subject, **The Young Christian during Adolescence.** Others followed, after which the following resolution was passed:

Since the subject of adolescence is in general not understood, be it,

Resolved, That we as a Conference advise a study of this subject from a religious view-point by the ministry as well as by all parents.

Bro. P. E. Whitmer spoke on **The Best Methods of Teaching Nonconformity to the World.** He and others emphasized the following points: (1) Specific Bible teaching, (2) personal visitation by ministers or influential members, (3) constant and conscientious effort by all Christians, (4) exemplary teaching by parents. I Tim. 2:9, 10; Rom. 12:1, 2; Jas. 5:19, 20; Ezek. 16:44.

Ques. 5. Our attitude toward the proposed union of all Mennonite bodies, was opened by Bro. John Garber. Several others spoke on the same subject. The following was passed by a strong vote:

Since Christ prayed for the unity of all believers so that the world may believe on Him (Jno. 17:19, 20) and taught that in union there is strength (Matt. 12:25), and since there is an effort to unify all Mennonite bodies, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That we, as a conference, favor a union of Mennonite bodies, provided such union can be brought about strictly on Gospel principles. Rom. 12:5; Jno. 10:16.

Friday Afternoon

The forenoon session was opened by Bro. Jonas Loucks who read Eph. 2 and led in prayer, after which it was decided to take up the business of the conference first.

The following brethren were elected to the positions designated: M. S. Wambold, member of the S. S. Conference Program Committee; N. S. Hoover, member of the Mennonite Publication Board; J. S. Hartzler, director on Mennonite Board of Education; N. E. Byers, director on Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; Rudy Senger on local Board for Fort Wayne Mission; G. L. Bender, P. E. Whitmer, and J. S. Hartzler, delegates to General Conference, P. E. Whitmer, Member of Committee on Arrangements.

The committee on plans for Local Mission Board reported and the report was accepted. The following resolution was then passed:

Whereas, it becomes necessary to provide some means for organizing this Mission Board, be it,

Resolved, That this conference appoint its district member of the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities as the President and some other brother as Secretary of the new Board who shall serve in these offices for the first year; and that these officers proceed at once to correspond with each congregation, requesting the election of their member to the Board and naming the date of a special meeting for completing the organization and for getting the Board into working order. Bro. J. K. Bixler was appointed secretary.

The secretary was instructed to send out blanks to the churches in time so that the report for the Church can be made out and sent back to the secretary so that he will have plenty of time to make out his general report.

The Barker Street congregation was asked to choose one of the two Indiana-Michigan conferences under which to work.

The resolution made at last year's conference to amend our

constitution to have each congregation represented by laymen in conference, one for every hundred members and elected by the laity was voted on but was lost.

The petition from the De Kalb congregation, asking for help was referred to the bishops in accordance with Art. 2, Sec. 1 of the Discipline.

The conference collection amounted to $37.00.

The petition from the members at Homestead, Mich., was referred to Bro. J. P. Miller to organize a church, ordain a minister or get one to move in.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Bro. J. K. Bixler, moderator; Bro. John Garber, assistant moderator; Bro. D. H. Coffman, treasurer. It was decided that the next conference shall be held at the Emma Church.

The following resolution was then passed:

Since the Mennonite and Amish Mennonite Churches are in such close proximity in the two Indiana-Michigan Conferences, and since the present conditions are not conducive to the most effective church government, and since in faith and practice they are very much the same, be it,

Resolved, That we favor the appointment of a joint committee of both conferences to carefully investigate conditions and to work out plans to be submitted to both conferences looking to the unity of the two conferences.

As there was still some time left Question 6 was taken up.

Ques. 6. What is meant by the so-called essentials and non-essentials, and how do they affect our church? Bro. J. E. Hartzler opened the subject.

Ans. Whereas there is a tendency to divide the teachings of the Bible as being of primary and secondary importance, and whereas there is untold injury coming from such teaching, be it,

Resolved, That we discourage such classification and encourage the acceptance of the whole Bible as sacred and important.

Ques. 7. Some of the greatest needs of the Church and how to supply them. Opened by Bro. O. S. Hostetler.

Time did not permit further discussion of the subject.

The afternoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. J. W. Christophel.

The spirit of unity, the deep desire for the upbuilding of the cause of Christ, the good attendance and the dispatch with which the work was done all tended to make this conference a real blessing which we trust may be manifested in the spiritual upbuilding of the congregations represented.

David Burkholder, Mod.
P. E. Whitmer, Asst. Mod.
J. S. Hartzler, Sec.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at Emma, Indiana, October 10, 11, 1912

Thursday Forenoon

The Conference was opened by devotional services conducted by Bro. David Burkholder who read Eph. 4:1-18 and after a few comments led in prayer.

The conference sermon was preached by Bro. J. W. Christophel from Matt. 16:18: "Upon this rock will I build my church." These are the words of the Savior to Simon. The Savior said, "Thou art Peter," which means rock or stone. Many interpret this to mean that Christ's Church was built on Peter, but other scriptures clearly show that the foundation of the Church is Christ Himself. On this foundation was built that little nucleus of the church which Christ left as He ascended to heaven. In that upper room these with others were endued with power from heaven. From there the preaching of the empowered disciples went out. Three thousand souls were the first fruits manifested. From that time on churches were established.

Workers in the cause are termed builders. Great care should be taken how we build on that great foundation. Every member should be a builder. We need to have the same mind in order to be fitted for a place in that great building. If all professed Christians were "lively stones" much of the work now done in conference would not be necessary.

The church built upon this foundation can not be overthrown, for "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The same is true of the individual stones in the building. To this end we need to be very watchful. To-day there are misleading doctrines which tend to lead away, and our Mennonite brethren need to be especially careful.

Some of the questions, such as "Immodest apparel," "devotional covering," and others which are on the program for this conference are there because there are those who are getting away from the teaching of the Gospel so that they do not have the promise just quoted. Let us be watchful and keep very close to God in devotion and consecration.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons in turn bore testimony to the sermon, after which the brotherhood bore sanction to the discourse by a standing vote.

The forenoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. Jonathan Kurtz.

Afternoon Session

Devotional services were conducted by Bro. D. D. Troyer, reading the 19th Psalm and leading in prayer.

The minutes of the conference of 1911 were read and approved.

Ques. 1. Should the Local (District) Mission Board have the authority to send help into congregations that are on the decline because they have no minister or where the minister is incapable, or resents help?

Discussion led by Bro. J. W. Christophel.

Whereas, the Conference has not been as successful as desired in supplying the needs of the needy places, be it,

Resolved, That we give the district mission board the authority to look after all places that are on the decline, or where they are not supplied with help, and that said Board shall have the authority with the consent of the bishop and the congregation from which such help is to be taken, to take charge of the work. (See Art. II. Sec. 1).

A report of the work of the secretary of the Mission Board was given by the secretary, Bro. Bixler.

The following petition from the District Mission Board was read:

Resolved, That as a Board we petition the Church Conference to define the work and rights of this Board concerning help in needy places.

Whereas, the District Mission Board has asked this conference to define the work of said Board more clearly, and,

Whereas, the bishops are already sufficiently burdened with work in congregations which are supplied with ministers, be it,

Resolved, That the following congregations—Nappanee, Salem, Holdeman's, Olive, Yellow Creek, Elkhart, Goshen, Clinton Brick, Emma, Shore, Bowne, White Cloud, and the Ft. Wayne Mission—be considered congregations in charge of the bishops and that the rest of the field be considered within the jurisdiction of the District Mission Board.

Whereas, Bro. J. K. Bixler has visited a number of outlying places and is acquainted with their needs, be it,

Resolved, That he be given bishop oversight of all the work within the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board with the consent of the congregation and bishop concerned shall have the authority to locate and ordain ministers and also to choose, ordain, and locate brethren in such fields.

Resolved, That the Mission Board be required to give to Conference a full and detailed report of its work each year so that Conference may be informed of the work done within the districts.

Inasmuch as every member of Conference is affected more or less by them, be it,

Resolved, That a copy be sent to every member of Conference.

Ques. 2. The devotional covering, its purposes and its abuses.

The subject was opened by Bro. J. E. Hartzler. After some discussion the committee on resolutions asked that time be granted until next day to present an answer. The afternoon services were closed with prayer by Bro. A. S. Cripe.

Thursday Evening

After a song service Bro. Jonas Loucks read Eph. 2 and led in prayer, after which the general subject, **"The Church"** was discussed under the following heads:

1. Its origin.
2. The Church under trial during the first three centuries.
3. The Reformation and Menno Simons.
4. The position of our young people in the Church.
5. The position of our older people in the Church.
6. The future outlook.

These talks were limited to ten minutes.

Bro. S. L. Weldy closed the meeting with prayer.

Friday Forenoon

Devotional services were conducted by Bro. D. J. Johns, reading I Tim. 4, and leading in prayer.

The resolution committee presented the following answer to Question 2:

The purpose of the devotional covering is to serve as a sign of the sisters' willingness to take the place as assigned to them by God's Word in times and places of devotion. (See Art. XVII of Constitution and Discipline). We consider the neglect of the covering, the immodest and improper ways of wearing the same, among the common abuses. We further urge that the ministry teach the proper significance of the ordinance as well as to teach against the abuses. Likewise that the brethren give proper encouragement to the proper observance of the same.

Ques. 3. What is the attitude of this conference in regard to unordained brethren preaching when not working under some local Mission Board?

This question was discussed by Bro. Y. C. Miller.

Resolved, (1) That all regularly ordained ministers and deacons of the Indiana-Michigan Conference District be granted a certificate of ordination; such certificate to be issued by the conference secretary; (2) That while we oppose the idea of unordained men filling preaching appointments, yet we urge that all

unordained persons, such as mission workers, institution men, both religious and educational, whenever deemed proper and necessary by the executive committee of the District Mission Board, be granted a certificate to do such other public work as occasion may seem to demand. All certificates thus issued by the secretary of Conference may be revoked at any time at the option of the executive committee of Conference.

A form was read and adopted and the secretary was instructed to have blanks printed.

Ques. 4. Should the conference provide for the traveling expenses of its delegates to district and General Conference?

(1) We advise that as far as practical each congregation meet the expenses of her own delegates to district conference; (2) That we authorize the treasurer of conference to make out a budget of the probable expense of conference delegates and make appeals to the different congregations of the district for the needed funds; (3) That we authorize the treasurer to pay such expenses of the delegates whom the executive committee of conference may see worthy; (4) That we authorize the treasurer to pay traveling expenses of all delegates to General Conference, who apply.

Ques. 5. The immodest apparel of the present day and its effects.

Bro. John Garber and several other brethren spoke on this subject.

Resolved, (1) That the scriptural rule for modest apparel as expressed in I Tim. 2:9, 10, and I Pet. 3:3, 4, should be strictly observed in principle and practice; (2) That the results and effects of immodest apparel are degrading socially, physically, and religiously. (Isa. 3:16-26, Zeph. 1:8); (3) That the entire brotherhood, ministry, and laity, in principle and practice, make every scriptural and consistent effort to avoid the modern drift into worldly and godless fashions.

The remainder of the forenoon was devoted to business affairs. The following resolutions were read and adopted:

Resolved, That Bro. J. K. Bixler be appointed as a member and temporary chairman of committee on the uniting of the two conferences, and that he appoint four brethren to serve on said committee. Brethren John Garber, David Burkholder, D. A. Yoder, and J. S. Hartzler were appointed.

Resolved, That Bro. J. W. Christophel be elected a member of our Publication Board, and Bro. D. A. Yoder be elected a member of the Board of Education, Bro. Amos Weldy be elected a member of the local Board of Ft. Wayne Mission. Bro. E. S. Mullet was reëlected as a member of the Sunday School Conference Program Committee.

The report of the committee appointed to collect funds to

pay expenses of bishops while ministering to the poor and small congregations show that the fund has been overdrawn $7.99. On motion it was decided to pay the deficit from the Conference fund and place the work on the District Mission Board, and relieve the Committee.

On vote, permission was granted the Salem and Holdeman congregations to ordain deacons in their respective congregations.

Whereas, Bro. Isaiah Christophel has been called away since our last Conference by God's providence, and,

Whereas, he was a faithful brother in the discharge of his duties as deacon of the Church, and,

Whereas, we keenly feel the loss of his presence and help in the work of the Conference, and Church, be it,

Resolved, That we express our heartfelt sympathies to Sister Christophel and her family in their great bereavement.

Whereas, the request has come from certain congregations to know the position of this conference concerning the congregation at Homestead, Mich., and,

Whereas, such and other persons were holding no church letters at the time of organization, be it,

Resolved, That we as a conference recognize the above organization but that said parties in question be required to give satisfaction to the congregation from which they came, and that they present good church letters from such congregations before they can be recognized as members of the new organization. (See Art. IX. Sec. 1, 2).

On motion it was decided to hold the next conference at Bowne, near Elmdale, Mich.

The collection amounted to $38.29.

Ques. 6. Do we favor a uniform method of receiving members from other conferences, and from other denominations?

Resolved, (1) That we favor a uniform method of receiving such members; (2) That the moderator appoint a committee of three whose duty it shall be to consider and formulate a uniform method of receiving members from other conferences and other denominations and report at next meeting of Conference.

The moderator appointed the following brethren a committee for this work: David Burkholder, P. E. Whitmer, and J. W. Christophel.

Ques. 7. What are the laws of Indiana-Michigan and what is the attitude of this Conference with regard to our members serving as jurymen?

Whereas, the remarks regarding the laws have been somewhat indefinite, and,

Whereas, we believe that it is detrimental to the spiritual interest of any brother to sit as juryman, be it,

Resolved, (1) That we believe it to be wrong for our brethren to sit as jurymen, and advise that the substance of this resolution be presented by our brethren when subpoenaed to serve on the jury; (2) That the moderator appoint a committee of two, one from each state to investigate and get the exact laws on this question and report at the next conference.

The brethren, T. U. Nelson and J. S. Hartzler, were appointed.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: J. K. Bixler, moderator; D. A. Yoder, assistant moderator; G. L. Bender, treasurer.

After closing remarks by the moderator, Bro. J. S. Hartzler led in the closing prayer.

Unity and harmony prevailed and all seemed to go away feeling that it was good to be there.

J. K. Bixler, Mod.
John Garber, Asst. Mod.
J. S. Hartzler, Sec.

Bishops.—J. K. Bixler, Wakarusa, Ind.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind ; D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.; D. A. Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.

Ministers.—Eli Stofer, Waterloo, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.; P. E. Whitmer, Goshen, Ind.; B. B. King, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; O. S. Hostetler, Topeka, Ind.; T. U. Nelson, White Cloud, Mich.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; A. J. Yantz, Topeka, Ind.; Amos Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Seth Hershberger, Shipshewana, Ind.; E. S. Mullet, Nappanee, Ind.; Jonas Loucks, Wakarusa, Ind.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind ; J. E. Hartzler, Elkhart, Ind.; S. L. Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Josiah Miller, Shipshewana, Ind ; John Bare, Nappanee, Ind.; Amos Cripe, Topeka, Ind.

Deacons.—G. L. Bender, Elkhart, Ind ; M. J. Yoder, Topeka, Ind.; J. J. Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.; A. S. Landis, Goshen, Ind.; D. H. Coffman, Goshen, Ind.; Samuel Smeltzer, Wakarusa, Ind.; Frank Maust, Nappanee, Ind.; I. S Johns, Goshen, Ind.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Bowne Church, Elmdale, Michigan, October 9, 10, 1913

The moderator, assistant moderator, and secretary having been previously chosen, the remainder of the organization resulted as follows: J. I. Weldy chorister, S. L. Weldy assistant secretary, J. E. Hartzler, N. M. Slabaugh, and B. B. King resolution committee. In the devotional service, Bro. Burkholder read I Cor. 3 and led in prayer.

Bro. David A. Yoder preached the conference sermon of which

the following is a synopsis: Text, Rom. 1:16. Paul's call to preach was from God, so also is ours. Since his authority was from God, so also is ours. Since our authority is from God we need not be ashamed to preach His Word. There are three "I am's," very close together here, Am a debtor, am ready to preach, am not ashamed. Thinking of Paul's early life we notice that he was not ashamed to live it and teach it at home and abroad. We should teach it because it convicts men and brings them to Christ and gives them peace. Teach the entire Word—not only a part, or that which is most pleasant to teach, but all of it. Teach the Word because it is a power, the power of God. It cleanses the life, creates a new life and is needful for all men. In the light of Paul's teaching, notice his charge to Timothy (II Tim. 5:1-4).

The bishops, ministers, and deacons gave their testimony after which the congregation gave their assent by a rising vote.

A resolution welcoming the brethren, E. S. Haliman, J. I. Weldy, Harvey Miller and Noah Weaver, as members of this Conference was passed. The petitions from Midland and Homestead, Mich., asking to be accepted as organized congregations was granted and the brethren, Wm. H. Haarer and John M. Yoder, were acknowledged as having the oversight of the respective congregations.

The minutes of the previous conference were read and approved.

Ques. 1 was opened by Bro. P. E. Whitmer. **What is our attitude toward the proposed Sunday School Board and other progressive steps advocated for Sunday school work?**

Whereas, we as a Conference believe that we should be awake to the opportunities afforded us in preaching the Gospel and since conditions are changing continually and since we need to exercise care with regards to methods of work, etc., and, Whereas, we believe that more could be done along this line if there were some Board to devise such plans, therefore be it Resolved, that we authorize the Sunday School Conference Program Committee to act as an Executive Board in carrying on the work of the Sunday School Conference and that all questions of aggressive work which imply important changes in methods and principles, be appealed to Church Conference for final approval; and further, that said board report their work annually at the Church conference.

Ques. 2. Inspiration of the Bible, our attitude toward members who deny the inspiration of the whole or part of it.

This question was opened by Bro. J. E. Hartzler. The following answer was adopted: Concerning inspiration of the Scriptures, be it,

Resolved, (1) That we as a Conference recognize the differ-

ence between inspiration, revelation, and dictation. Inspiration meaning "inbreathed;" revelation meaning "unveiled," "uncovered;" dictation meaning that the message has been given through man in a mechanical way, the man being denied any freedom or power of his own.

Resolved, (2) That we recognize revelation in its true sense as communicating original truth and material to the mind of man and that inspiration is the act of the Holy Spirit in recording and making truth known to other than inspired men and further, that inspiration does not create truth but inspiration is found in the use made of truth. Revelation provides the material; inspiration records.

Resolved, (3) That we accept without contradiction the doctrine found in II Tim. 3:15-17, Heb. 1:1, and II Pet. 1:21, of the full and complete inspiration of the Bible as a whole as the message of God to man. That the leading proofs of inspiration are to be found in the testimony of the Scripture itself, in the fundamental message of the Scriptures, and in the life giving influence which the Word has upon men. That the Bible, as an inspired record, is the perfect and heavenly message.

Resolved, (4) That we believe that every Christian will accept the veracity of II Tim. 3:15-17 without contradiction; that men who are wavering on this doctrine should be dealt with kindly with the aim of indoctrination; that members, ministers, deacons, Sunday school and mission workers who either privately or publicly deny the divine inspiration of the Scripture cannot be recognized by this Conference as being sound in the faith; and that after due instruction and admonition such persons still continue the denial of divine inspiration of the Word, thereby sever themselves from the membership of the Church.

The evening service was devoted to a discussion of the Holy Spirit, six brethren being assigned six verses which bring out various phases of His work.

On Thursday morning the work was resumed, beginning with **Ques. 3. How help congregations whose minister is not awake to the needs of his flock? What steps may such congregation take to remedy such needs?**

Resolved (1) That where the minister or bishop is not awake to the needs of his congregation, we advise that the members of such congregation make every effort to convince such minister or bishop of such need. (2) That the congregation go on with its work in young people's meeting, Sunday school, etc., as best they can. (3) That members of such regular organized congregations be advised to appeal (1) to their bishop, (2) to Conference, or the executive committee of Conference, or mission stations may appeal to the district mission board to supply their needs.

Ques. 4. Should the evangelists teach the doctrines peculiar to our church?

Whereas, we as a Conference believe that our ministers, bishops and evangelists should thoroughly understand and teach the fundamental doctrines of the Church as upheld by the Scriptures, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That we urge our evangelists to use wisdom and good judgment in their work, teaching the doctrines of the church, that the people may know without question where he stands. Such teaching to be done at times and places where the hearts of men are prepared by faith, repentance, and conversion to receive such doctrines intelligently.

The secretary of the District Mission Board read a report of the work for the last year, which was approved.

The revised constitution and by-laws of the District Mission Board were read and approved.

The brethren, O. S. Hostetler, J. E. Hartzler and J. S. Hartzler were elected delegates to the General Conference.

Bro. J. K. Bixler was elected on Committee of Arrangements for the General Conference.

Report of the Committee on Conference Union

The joint committee appointed by the two Indiana-Michigan Conferences, met at the home of Bro. J. S. Hartzler on Feb. 13, 1913. After a short session of the separate committees, the two committees met in joint session and the following organization was effected:

Bro. J. K. Bixler Chairman; I. R. Detweiler, Secretary. The meeting was then formally opened with a season of prayer. After a friendly discussion of several hours, the following resolutions were unanimously passed.

Resolved, That, until further steps are deemed advisable, we recommend that the two Conferences be held as heretofore and that all members of both Conferences be encouraged to attend and take part in the discussions and decisions of each Conference.

Resolved, That we recommend a mutual coöperation of the two Conferences in the mission work of the Conference District.

Resolved, That we as a Committee express our appreciation of the mutual fellowship that has existed between the two Conference bodies, and urge that our members refrain from doing anything that would in any way hinder the progress of this union and that every member conform to such conditions as will encourage this desirable fellowship.

The report of the Committee was approved.

The Secretary's report showing the condition of the Church as a whole was read and approved. The Committee appointed by Conference to find out what the laws of Indiana and Michigan were regarding members serving as jurymen, reported. T. U.

Nelson gave a report for Michigan and J. S. Hartzler for Indiana. As a result the following resolutions were passed.

Whereas, we believe that it is detrimental to the spiritual development of our people to serve as jurymen and whereas, the courts have been favorably disposed to recognize their obligation to regard the religious views of the various ecclesiastical bodies in excusing people who have religious conviction on serving as jurymen, and,

Whereas, we as a religious body believe that as citizens of a Christian commonwealth, we are under obligation to give due regard and respect to the laws of our land, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That we, the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, believing it to be our privilege to be excused from such service, advise the members of our Church to refrain from serving as jurymen, and,

Resolved, That we hereby petition the courts to excuse our members from such service, and,

Resolved, That the Conference Secretary be instructed to send at least one copy of these resolutions to each congregation under this Conference.

Resolutions

Whereas, there is a tendency among some of our brethren to conduct and encourage singing classes on the Lord's Day, therefore be it,

Resolved, That we oppose the organization or conducting of any such class which meets on the Lord's Day, such classes conflicting with regular meetings of the church, or which have mere financial or social benefits in view. Any person conducting or encouraging such class after due admonition, place themselves under church censure. This is not to be construed to mean that we oppose singing classes when held at proper times and under proper management.

Resolved, That this Conference hereafter shall not recognize the ordination of any brother to the office of deacon or minister or the advancement of a deacon or minister to a higher office, who habitually use tobacco, liquors, or narcotics in any form.

Resolved, That the following brethren be elected or reëlected to the following offices: J. S. Hartzler, Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; J. W. Christophel, Publication Board; Amos Weldy, Local Board for Ft. Wayne Mission; P. E. Whitmer, Member of Sunday School Program Committee; J. E. Hartzler, District Mission Board.

Resolved, That the Yellow Creek congregation be granted the privilege of ordaining a deacon.

Resolved, That all the brethren who are stationed by the Dis-

trict Mission Board and accepted as workers in needy fields by Conference, shall by virtue of their appointment be considered as members of Conference.

Whereas, it pleased Almighty God through His unerring providence to remove from our midst, Bro. N. S. Hoover who has for years been a faithful and active member of this Conference, and, whereas, we as a Conference feel very keenly the absence of our brother, be it,

Resolved, (1) That we humbly submit to His Providence, knowing that He doeth all things well; (2) That we extend to the family of our departed brother our heartfelt sympathy in their loss of a faithful husband and kind Christian father and (3) that we instruct our secretary to place on the minutes of this Conference the above resolution.

Whereas, we believe the mission work at Ft. Wayne has been greatly hindered for the lack of room, and, whereas the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities has granted Bro. King the privilege of privately soliciting for the needed funds for a larger building, be it,

Resolved, That we approve of said action of the Board.

Resolved, That we hereby express our appreciation to the Bowne congregation for their kind hospitality shown to us during the Conference.

The Secretary of the Sunday School Conference Program Committee gave a report of their work. Report accepted.

The resolution referring to methods of giving church letters was referred to the General Conference.

There being some time left, **Ques. 5** was taken up. **Labor unions and kindred organizations; their effect; our attitude.**

Whereas, it is rather difficult to pass perfect judgment on this question without making a thorough investigation of conditions, be it,

Resolved, That the moderator appoint a committee of three to thoroughly investigate this problem and report to the next conference.

Ques. 6. Funerals, when and where should they be held? Object of, feasts in connection with, display, secret order services.

Resolved, That funerals be held at such times as may be most convenient and consistent for all persons concerned, however, we urge that in so far as possible funerals be held at time other than that of regular church services; preferably during the week, rather than on the Lord's Day, that they also, when convenient, be held at the church. That the object of public funerals should be to instruct and warn the living concerning life, its brevity and responsibilities rather than to laud the dead. That we discourage the practice of feasts being held in connection with

funerals. That we advise against any and all unnecessary and unbecoming display upon such occasion. That we are opposed to any minister conducting funeral services in connection with secret order services, yet we urge that when possible our ministers should conduct funerals when it can be done in a Christ-like way with the services entirely in the hands of our ministers, that we forbid the use of any of our church buildings for secret order funeral services.

The hour for closing had come. The moderator made some closing remarks and called on Bro. J. E. Hartzler to lead in a closing prayer. We praise the Lord for the feeling of good fellowship and spiritual interest that prevailed throughout the Conference.

There were present five bishops, 19 ministers, 10 deacons, and one of the workers stationed in the new field.

J. S. Hartzler,
S. L. Weldy,
Secretaries.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Yellow Creek Church near Goshen, Ind., October 8 and 9, 1914

The opening services were conducted by Bro. John Nice of Morrison, Ill., who read Eph. 4:1-24 and led in prayer. The conference sermon was preached by Bro. J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind., who used II Cor. 5:20, "We are ambassadors," as a text. An ambassador is one who is sent to another country on business for the king who sent him. Such a man would study carefully his work because of the great questions involved, realizing that the welfare of his kingdom was at stake. The controversy is great, the world is opposing the work of the King who sent us. The Word of reconciliation is given us. That means much. Now compare our interests: A soul vs. lands; immorality vs. stocks and bonds; eternity vs. time, frivolities, pleasure, and death. The cause which we represent is directly opposite to the cause of the world. Let us study our ambassadorship. We can not have an interest in that which we do not study. Do we realize the awful meaning of the word, lost? The leper, lost to his family; the child, lost in the woods, may be a thousand times better off than the man of the world. Let us "Tarry....in Jerusalem," for success in our ambassadorship.

We need to feel the force of the word, "Go." Those of us who are the most indifferent would be the most impatient with a

farm hand who would be as disinterested with our work as we are with the work of our King. The "quiet hour" will help us to feel the force of this command. As ambassadors we should carefully and prayerfully stand together. **Endeavoring** to keep the unity of the faith, and as an army present a solid front for our Lord and Master.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons in turn gave stirring talks in connection with their testimonies. Bro. D. J. Johns led in the closing prayer for the noon hour.

Thursday Afternoon

The devotional services were conducted by Bro. Moses Brenneman of Elida, Ohio. The following resolutions were read and adopted:

Resolved, That William B. Weaver of Elkhart, Ind., Henry Weaver of Goshen, Ind. (Yellow Creek congregation), Noah Gerber of Goshen, Ind., and John M. Yoder of Vestaburg, Mich., be accorded a hearty welcome as members of this Conference.

Resolved, That we extend a hearty welcome to the visiting brethren from other Conferences and invite them to take active part in the work of this conference.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, after which Question 1 was taken up.

Ques. 1. How may we increase the efficiency and consecration of our ministry and get more of the talented laity into the work? Discussion opened by Bro. J. W. Christophel.

Resolved, 1. That the efficiency of our ministry may be increased, (1) by concentration of mind and definite and continued study in gaining Bible knowledge as well as knowledge of the present needs of the world in the furtherance of the kingdom of God; (2) by laying before our ministry the responsibility of our trust and by the congregation making it possible for the ministry to do its best work; (3) by appointing a committee of six brethren, three from the fall and three from the spring conference, to work out a course of home Bible study which will be a definite aid to our ministry.

2. That the consecration of our ministry may be increased, (1) by creating a genuine love for needy humanity; (2) by teaching the real value of devotional services; (3) by wisely and judiciously exalting the office of the ministry. I Tim. 5:17.

3. That we can gain more of the talented laity into the service, by encouraging Spirit-filled men—men of talent and qualification—and ordaining them to the work and faithfully remembering them in prayer and aiding them in other ways as conditions and circumstances may demand.

Ques. 2. The advantage and duty of having family worship

and Bible study in the home. Opened by Bro. E. S. Hallman.

Resolved, That some of the advantages of family worship are: (1) It affords regular opportunity in studying the Word by parents and family. (2) It gives opportunity to practice Deut. 6:7 and Eph. 6:4. (3) It prepares the heart for watchfulness. (4) It affords protection in daily life.

2. That it is a duty which parents owe to their homes and families, and we heartily urge that each home establish and continue the family altar.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler closed the afternoon session with prayer.

Thursday Evening

Influence of Missions.

1. On the spirituality of the home Church. Bro. W. B. Weaver.

2. On the workers themselves. Bro. M. C. Lehman.

3. On the place where the mission is located. Sister Della Bickel. (Substitute for Bro. B. B. King.)

4. On the young people for greater proficiency. Bro. A. E. Kreider.

Friday Forenoon

Bro. Menno Esch led in the devotional services.

On motion it was decided that the moderators and assistant moderators of the spring and the fall conferences should appoint the committee to get out the course of Bible study proposed in resolution to Question 1. Brethren, D. A. Yoder, D. D. Miller, I. R. Detweiler, S. L. Weldy, S. S. Yoder and J. S. Hartzler were appointed.

The petition from Vestaburg, Mich., signed by twenty-one members, asking to be recognized as an organized congregation was read and accepted.

The resolutions passed by the Conference Union committee and the spring conference regarding the revising of the Rules and Discipline were read and adopted. The Conference Union Committee were asked to work with the brethren appointed by the spring conference and revise the Rules and Regulations and present the same at the next Conference.

Ques. 3. **Purposes of Bible Conferences and how to improve them.** Discussion led by Bro. I. R. Detweiler.

Resolved, 1. That the purpose of the Bible conference should be, (1) to instruct the mind, to investigate, to determine what is truth, to add to our present religious knowledge (II Tim. 2:15); (2) to produce proper feelings and emotions which will lead us in formulating proper resolutions for individual action (Matt. 7:21); (3) to produce actions, to animate the will power, which cause men to live the principles of Christ better after the Conference

than before, to form proper ideals about God, man, and the universe and act accordingly. Luke 10:25-37.

2. That we can improve our Bible Conferences by following out these purposes. We would recommend that more definite and continuous chapter and book study be introduced with the general topical method of teaching.

Ques. 4. Council meetings, aims, methods, substitutes. Opened by Bro. E. S. Hallman.

Resolved, That our council meetings should not be primarily to bring complaints but to express our good will toward one another, our preparedness by being at peace with God and man and that it be considered a fellowship meeting where we may encourage one another by discussing such problems as will help all to see where we may improve our church work.

That we encourage the open rather than the private council and that these meetings be held at other times than during the regular services. This is not to be construed to mean that under special circumstances a congregation may not choose the method or time which may seem best under those circumstances.

Closing prayer by Bro. E. S. Mullett.

Friday Afternoon

Scripture reading and prayer by Bro. J. H. McGowen.

The Conference Union committee, composed of members from both conferences, were asked to work out a report on the dress question and send their findings and suggestions to the different congregations and ask them to report back to the committee for revision and presentation of their final verdict to the spring conference.

The committee on Labor Unions was not ready to give a full report, hence were retained and asked to bring a written report to the next conference.

Ques. 5. The principles of peace and nonresistance. Opened by Bro. D. J. Johns.

Resolved, 1. That we re-affirm our position on the principles of peace and nonresistance. We believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is absolutely opposed to carnal warfare; that war is unjustifiable, on the part of any Christian nation; that it is expensive, demoralizing, and dehumanizing; that it robs a people financially and by taking the best and strongest men, physically, in the prime of life, leaving the weaklings and cripples as a foundation for succeeding generations; that we believe according to the Gospel and past experience that the principles of peace and nonresistance are most conducive to the welfare of humanity; that we urge our ministers and teachers to teach said principles more definitely. We also urge the teaching of peace in our public

schools rather than militarism; that we urge our people to maintain absolute neutrality in the present conflict and to say nothing or do nothing which would in any way violate the spirit or the letter of nonresistance.

That we express our appreciation and gratitude to the head of our nation in his effort to maintain neutrality and peace in the present conflict in Europe, and that we send a copy of this resolution to the president and request and urge a continuation of the present principles of neutrality and efforts toward making peace among the nations.

Ques. 6. Our young people; the duty of the minister in their development. Discussion led by E. S. Mullett.

Resolved, 1. That a minister owes a personality and character to his people which will demand respect for his office (I Tim. 5: 17), Jesus and Paul being good examples.

2. This can be done by the "preacher" being also a "pastor;" by coming into personal contact with his young people; by taking them into his confidence and talking over life's problems, leading them to see God's claim upon them; by having them busy at work; by leading and inviting them to follow; by being present at all the meetings of the church and by making a careful study of the young people, noticing and appreciating their strong points and helping them in their weak ones.

The secretary of the District Mission Board gave a report of the work done and the conditions of the field. Report accepted.

Resolved, That we endorse the steps taken by the Sunday School Conference of this district in drawing up a constitution for the purpose of better organization and more effective work.

Resolved, That the following brethren be reëlected to their respective offices: D. A. Yoder, Mennonite Board of Education; J. W. Christophel, Mennonite Publication Board; J. S. Hartzler, Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; Amos Weldy, Local Board of Fort Wayne Mission; J. E. Hartzler, District Mission Board, and that Edward Martin be elected on Sunday School Conference Program Committee for a period of three years.

Report of the Sunday School Conference Program Committee was given by Bro. E. S. Mullett. Report accepted.

The Brethren, J. E. Hartzler, William B. Weaver, P. E. Whitmer, J. S. Hartzler, G. L. Bender, J. W. Christophel, S. L. Weldy, and O. S. Hostetler were elected delegates to the General Conference. Bro. J. K. Bixler was appointed on Committee of Arrangements for said Conference.

It was decided to hold the next Conference with the Salem congregation, near New Paris, Ind.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Yellow Creek congregation for their hospitality during the conference.

The election of officers resulted as follows: J. K. Bixler, Moderator; D. A. Yoder, assistant moderator; J. S. Hartzler, secretary; G. L. Bender, treasurer.

There were present ten bishops, twenty-eight ministers, and fifteen deacons. A consciousness of responsibilty seemed to rest on the entire body and the interest was good throughout.

Closing prayer by Bro. David Burkholder.

J. K. Bixler, Mod.
J. S. Hartzler, Secy.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Salem Church near New Paris, Ind., October 7 and 8, 1915

After several songs, Bro. O. S. Hostetler read Eph. 4 and led in prayer. The minutes of the previous Conference were read and approved. Brethren B. B. King, P. E. Whitmer, and D. J. Johns were appointed committee on resolutions.

Bro. P. E. Whitmer read Jas. 2:14-26, calling special attention to verse 22. The following is a short synopsis of his sermon. James, in these verses, urges the Christians to whom he writes to prove the genuineness of their faith in Christ by Christian activities. Apparently there had been a tendency to profess salvation by faith alone. This had gone so far that the Christians did not help the needy and suffering. The widows and orphans were abandoned to their fate. Those who were without food and clothing were told to go their way and be fed and clothed without any help from the believers. This easy-going negligence is what James had in mind in this teaching.

There is a tendency even to this day to live an easy religion —a religion that leaves one secure in his selfishness. There are some individuals, congregations, and even denominations that are inactive under the shield of being saved by faith and not by works. Under the guise of a living faith, Christian obligations are neglected. The poor do not have the Gospel preached to them, the widows and orphans are neglected, the sick are not visited, and the claims of Christ are not presented to all the world because some feel that faith without works is the all-important requirement.

On the other hand there are some who have so much confidence in good works that they look upon a saving faith as unimportant. By living a normal life and showing an interest in their neighbors they discharge their full Christian duty, even if they utterly disregard the leading doctrine in the writings of Paul—Justification by faith.

What the Christian Church needs is a revival of both faith

and works. The strength and hope of the Church consists in the depth and genuineness of her faith in the doctrines of the Bible and the degree of her faithfulness in putting them into practice in daily life. A Christian is a believer in Christ as the Son of God. This includes the belief that Christ came from God as His only begotten Son, that Christ is the Redeemer of the lost and sin-cursed souls, that Christ is the resurrection and the guarantee of the resurrection of all men, and that He is the abiding Comforter of the believers in their pilgrimage through this life.

Then, too, we as a church must give special emphasis to the doctrines and ordinances that are peculiar to our Church. The very fact that other Christian bodies do not give them recognition makes it all the more important that we give them special emphasis. With all this we dare not lose sight of the fact that our beliefs must be put into practice. Our faith must be illustrated and proved by good words. Our Christian stewardship is a great privilege as well as a practical necessity, for by helping others in the Christian life we help ourselves as well as others. We are brethren, one of another, and what is good for us is also good for the brotherhood.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons heartily endorsed the thoughts given in the sermon and added many others.

The Conference secretary's report was read and approved. The report shows that there are in the Conference district 5 bishops, 24 ministers under the Conference proper, and 6 under the Mission Board (one of these has gone to his reward since the report was sent in), 5 deacons under the Conference proper and none under the Mission Board. There are 13 congregations under the Conference proper and the same number of stations under the Mission Board. All under the Conference and all of those under the Mission Board had Bible Conference. The losses during the year were as follows:

	Conference	Mission Board
Letter	44	25
Death	16	2
Backsliding	49	5
Total loss under	109	32

Total loss under both Conference and Mission Board, 141.
The gains were as follows:

	Conference	Mission Board
By baptism	110	19
By letter	51	11
Reclaimed	19	0
From other denominations	11	6
Total under	191	36

Total under both, 227.
Net gain in the Conference for the year, 86.

Total membership under both, 1791. There was a decided gain in the number of pastoral visits reported—a hopeful sign. Mission collections are held in the congregations under the Conference proper as follows: 7, monthly; 4, quarterly; 1, weekly; 1, not reported. Amount collected for missions, $1522.43. Report was accepted.

Conference closed for the noon hour.

The afternoon session was opened by Bro. J. H. McGowen, who read Jas. 1 and led in prayer. The proposed Constitution and Discipline of Conference was read. It was decided for adoption it must have at least three-fourths of the votes cast by the brotherhood in the various congregations. It received more than the required number of votes of Conference.

On motion it was decided that the secretaries of the spring and fall Conferences get the Constitution and Discipline ready for the press and determine the number needed.

Decided that the Committee on Conference Union have the matter in charge of taking the voice of the congregations on the final ratification of the Constitution and Discipline.

The matrimonial problem in the smaller congregations, was discussed by Bro. D. D. Miller. This was followed by some general discussion but for want of time the subject was left over for the next day. Closing prayer by Bro. D. D. Miller.

Friday Forenoon

Bro. Amos Nusbaum read the 8th Psalm and led in prayer. The following resolutions were read and adopted:

Whereas, it pleased Almighty God through His unerring Providence to remove from our midst our colaborer, Bro. Eli Stofer who has for years been a faithful member of this conference, be it,

Resolved, (1) That we humbly submit to this Providence, knowing that He doeth all things well; (2) That we extend to the family of our departed brother our heartfelt sympathy in their loss; and (3) That we instruct our secretary to place these resolutions on the minutes of this Conference.

Resolved, That the brethren William W. Oesch and Simon W. Sommer, who have been ordained to the ministry since our last annual Conference, be accorded a hearty welcome as members of this Conference.

Whereas, Marriage is an institution of God and is therefore sacred and has great influence on Christian service and,

Whereas, the smaller congregations many times are not opportune places to choose life companions, and,

Whereas, many Christians look too lightly at this question,

Therefore we advise (1) That parents be more prayerful and

diligent in teaching the sacred purpose and blessedness of this holy institution to their children and do all in their power to provide opportunities for proper associations; (2) That the ministry give proper teaching and counsel on the subject; (3) That the young people be prayerful and considerate; (4) Since the matrimonial problem is becoming a serious one in many of our congregations, be it,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to study the problem in this conference district and give a written report with recommendations for consideration at the next Conference Brethren D. A. Yoder, I. R. Detweiler, and B. B. King were appointed.

On Wednesday previous to Conference, at the Ministerial Meeting, among other questions discussed, was this one: The Dress Question in the Light of the Report of the Dress Committee of General Conference. Moved, That the moderator appoint a committee of 5 to work out suggestions, plans and methods of work to be presented to the congregations.

This motion was amended to the effect that the moderator be on that committee and that he appoint four others. The motion as amended was adopted. When presented to Conference it was approved. J. K. Bixler, D. D. Miller, S. S. Yoder, G. L. Bender, and J. S. Hartzler, committee.

The subject, **Personal Responsibility in the Congregation,** was discussed by Bro. D. H. Coffman. The committee on resolutions offered the following, which was adopted: Since the Christian congregation is one body there must be coöperation and helpfulness among all the members of the body. If one suffers, all suffer likewise. I Cor. 12. It is therefore necessary that there be wholehearted coöperation on the part of the members of each congregation in discharge of full obligations to God, to the Church, and to mankind in general.

(1) The minister is especially responsible to his charge to preach the Word in season and out of season, and to do works of Christian helpfulness to all whom he meets. (2) Every child of God is responsible to support the work of the church in being present at all the services of the Church whenever possible and take an active part, help the cause of Christ by sympathy and prayer, and continue the support of the work both at home and abroad. In all this work the true Christian spirit must be shown to prove our stewardship as true ambassadors of Christ. II Cor. 5:20.

The committee appointed to arrange a course of study for our ministers gave their report. Report accepted and committee retained.

The Workman's Compensation Act, was discussed by Bro. J. K. Bixler. After a very good explanation of the law as it affects the people of Indiana and Michigan, it was decided to appoint a committee which shall work out a plan for the protection of our brethren who are employers and employees as they are affected by said Act and report at the Spring Conference and in the meantime that we stand by our Constitution and Discipline on the question of life insurance.

Moved and seconded that the foregoing committee consist of 5 brethren and that Bro. J. K. Bixler be one and that he choose the other four. Carried. Brethren Oliver Grosh, L. W. Yoder, L. S. Nafziger, and D. J. Johns were the others chosen.

The following brethren were elected to these respective offices: D. A. Yoder, Mennonite Board of Education; J. W. Christophel, Mennonite Publication Board; J. S. Hartzler, Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; Amos Weldy, Local Board of Ft. Wayne Mission; S. L. Weldy, Sunday School Program Committee.

Prayer by Bro. Henry Weldy. Noon.

Bro. Silas Yoder read a part of the 119th Psalm and led in prayer. The moderator asked for the privilege of appointing Brethren J. S. Hartzler, Jonathan Kurtz, and J. W. Christophel as an advisory committee to aid in the solution of the problem brought on by the Workman's Compensation Act. It was granted and the privilege given to call in as many more as might from time to time be necessary.

The fourth annual report of the District Mission Board was read by the secretary, Bro. J. K. Bixler. Report was approved.

The treasurer, Bro. G. L. Bender, read the report of the same board. He also being treasurer of the Conference read the financial report of Conference. Both were accepted.

At a meeting held previous to the Conference, the Executive Committee of Conference passed the following resolution:

Whereas, a year ago eighteen members of the Bowne congregation sent in a petition to this conference asking that an investigation be made of conditions existing there, and,

Whereas, we, the Executive Committee of Conference, asked that 60 members sign the petition, and,

Whereas, the Constitution of Conference (Art. VIII) says that Conference shall be open to hear and consider appeals from individuals;

We, the Executive Committee of this Conference, acknowledge that we made a mistake in asking that a majority of members sign such appeal. We ask that Conference shall take action and send a committee who shall investigate the matter and take such steps as will be needful for the welfare of the congregation.

Moved and seconded that the moderator, secretary, and resolution committee constitute a nominating committee to name five brethren who shall go to the Bowne congregation to adjust matters. Carried. Brethren J. S. Hartzler, D. A. Yoder, D. J. Johns, G. L. Bender, and D. H. Coffman were nominated and elected.

A collection of $31.16 was taken which, with the amount in the treasury, $8.44, makes a total of $39.60.

The subject, **Grange, Farmer's Betterment Club, Society of Equity and Kindred Organizations,** was discussed by Bro. J. W. Christophel. After some discussion the following resolution was passed:

Whereas, many of these societies are secret organizations, or tend to yoke together Christians with unbelievers, or are organizations which have for their purpose the monopolizing of trade, be it

Resolved, That we teach by precept and example against such organizations and hold ourselves aloof from such societies or organizations.

The question arose as to how the secretary of the District Mission Board makes his living as he is almost constantly engaged in the work of the Church. After some discussion the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the several congregations in Indiana and Michigan be urged to take up special collections for the support of the secretary and that the Executive Committee of the District Mission Board be instructed to work out a plan whereby the living of the secretary may be provided for on Gospel principles and that the plan be submitted to the next annual meeting of the District Mission Board for adoption.

The secretary of the Sunday School Conference Committee gave a report of the work done. Report was accepted. He also read the constitution which the Sunday School Conference presented for the said Sunday School Conference. It was adopted.

The election of officers resulted as follows: J. K. Bixler, moderator; D. A. Yoder, assistant moderator; G. L. Bender, treasurer. The secretary's term not having expired, none was elected.

There still being some time left, Bro. J. E. Hartzler discussed, **Conditions Tending to a Successful Revival Meeting.** The following were some of the suggestions made, and they were endorsed by the Conference: (1) a clean, united Church, Acts 2; (2) Prayer and consecration, Eph. 6:18, 19; (3) The selection of an evangelist: a. Is the man spiritually sound? b. Is he established in the Word? c. Is he kind, sympathetic, and an earnest preacher of the Word? (4) Announce properly the meetings, Jno. 4:25, 26. (5) Let the message be earnest and direct. (6) The work must

be followed up by proper teaching and indoctrination. (7) Every convert must be put to work as soon as possible.

Closing remarks by the moderator and prayer by J. S. Hartzler.

There were present, 8 bishops, 22 ministers, and 9 deacons.

J. K. Bixler, Moderator.

J. S. Hartzler, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN (Fall) CONFERENCE

Held at the Clinton Brick Church, October 12, 13, 1916

Conference was opened by Bro. J. W. Christophel, who read II Tim. 3 and led in prayer.

Bro. John Nice of Morrison, Ill., preached the conference sermon. Text, Eph. 4:11-13. He said in part:

The Church is here presented as the body of Christ. God gave different gifts to different individuals for the perfecting of that body. Christ Himself is the great Master Builder. Each member should be a part in that great building. We must expect testings, must be living, active. This means a genuine change through repentance and conversion. The various callings spoken of in the text are necessary, and real true activity in these tends to build up the Church. It is by these that the Church is kept from the false teachings of to-day, hence care is needed in the selection of teachers. The pastor should feed the flock, not for the wool, but for the upbuilding of the saints. The cause of Christ should be first and all earthly things should be secondary. We need to study in order to "rightly divide the word of truth." Christ so loved the Church that He gave Himself for it.

If there are those who hinder the growth of the Church and they are not removed they will weaken it. It should be so built and cared for as to keep the world out and we need to be careful that the Church does not get into the world. Conformity to the world means more than dress. It applies to our condition of spirit and may be seen in our homes, our farms, and our actions. We need not only a form of godliness but also the power thereof.

Testimony was given by the bishops, ministers, and deacons who gave many additional thoughts.

Brethren E. S. Mullet, D. D. Miller, and B. B. King were appointed on the Resolution Committee. Closing prayer, Bro. B. B. King.

Thursday Afternoon Session

Bro. Jonathan Kurtz read Col. 1 and led in prayer. The minutes of the previous conference were read and approved.

On motion it was decided that the Constitution, Rules, and

Discipline as passed at the last conference and ratified by the congregations be declared in effect from this date (Oct. 12, 1916). (The votes in the congregations stood 1319 in favor and 155 opposed.)

The report of the Conference Union Committee was read and adopted with all its recommendations and the committee retained.

The committee appointed by the last conference to investigate the marriage question gave its report. This revealed some startling facts and showed that further work was necessary. The report was accepted, the committee retained and brethren, D. D. Miller and J. S. Hartzler were added to the committee.

The subject of **Church Loyalty** was discussed by Bro. D. D. Miller. Others also added good thoughts. The Resolution Committee was given time until next morning to present an answer.

The committee sent to Pigeon, Mich., to investigate conditions there gave its report, which with all of its recommendations was adopted.

Afternoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. Menno Eash.

Friday Forenoon

Bro. J. H. McGowen read Phil. 2:1-18, and led in prayer, after which Question 1 was again taken up and the following answer was adopted: By loyalty we mean allegiance to a pledged faith or duty. By church loyalty we mean to be true to the promise made to God and the Church.

Church loyalty can only be obtained by thorough conversion, daily consecration and a proper knowledge of what the Church really is and claims it places upon us.

It is therefore necessary that the ministry and the laity fully exercise themselves in all the teachings of the Church with motive of love and obedience to Christ. Acts 9:4, 5; Heb. 13:7, 17.

Ques. 2. The Bishop: Scope, responsibility, influence. This was discussed by Bro. J. W. Christophel.

Ans. God's Word teaches that the bishops are placed over the Church as overseers and shepherds of our souls. Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2; Heb. 13:17. It is their duty to "feed the flock," exercise authority not by lording over them but by leading them in the spirit of a shepherd. They must also watch and warn against false teachings and divisions which may arise in the Church. Acts 20:29-31. Their lives must be such that their influence will be according to I Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:7.

Ques. 3. Evangelism. This was divided into four parts and discussed by the brethren whose names are attached. (1) **Selecting the evangelist,** S. S. Yoder; (2) **Preparation for the meetings,** O. S. Hostetler; (3) **Methods of conducting,** B. B. King; (4) **After the meetings,** J. K. Bixler.

The following was adopted: In selecting an evangelist the voice of the Church should be taken. Only such men should be selected as are deeply interested in the salvation of souls and can adapt themselves to do personal work and can work agreeably with the congregation. Special meetings for prayer will prepare the congregation spiritually. The members should acquaint themselves with the best methods and conditions by making a thorough survey of the field about them. A special effort should be made to thoroughly publish the meetings. A competent leader to conduct song service is very important. Methods of conducting the meetings depend on the conditions of the field. As many homes should be visited during the meetings as practical. After the meetings special instructions should be given and the ministers and others should make special effort to keep in personal touch with the converts. They should be given something to do, and the idea "saved to serve" be impressed upon them continually.

Closing prayer by Bro. W. W. Oesch.

Friday Afternoon

Bro. W. B. Weaver read Phil. 3 as an opening lesson and led in prayer.

On the suggestion of the secretary of the Mission Board the Homestead congregation was declared disorganized because nearly all the members had moved away.

Secretary of the Mission Board gave a report of the work of the Board. Report accepted.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler gave a report of the committee on Ministers' Course of Study. Report accepted, the committee retained and the right granted to make suggested changes in the course.

A collection was taken to defray conference expenses. Amount collected, $31.57.

The Mission Board Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The Secretary of Conference gave a report of the congregations which showed a gain of 122 members in the conference districts, an increased number of pastoral visits, revival meetings in each congregation, and that in most cases the future prospects were considered very good.

The Conference Treasurer's report was read, the report accepted, and the treasurer retained until the meeting of the united conference.

The report of the Secretary of the Sunday School Conference was read and approved.

The report of the Dress Committee was given, and approved, and the committee retained. The bishops' council suggested that the Executive Committee of the united conference shall appoint two sisters to aid in the work of the Dress Committee.

On motion Bro. J. P. Miller was given bishop oversight of the Shore congregation in a separate bishop district. Bro. Miller having resigned his charge as bishop of the Bowne and White Cloud congregations, Bro. D. A. Yoder was given bishop charge of the Bowne congregation and White Cloud was left for a later date.

In case the Berne (Pigeon) congregation is brought under the conference, Bro. Menno Eash shall have bishop oversight of the same.

The request for permission to ordain a minister in the Olive congregation was granted.

The moderator led in the closing prayer.

Conference was attended by 11 bishops, 29 ministers, and 18 deacons.

There was a general rejoicing at the thought that hereafter we would not be known as Spring and Fall conferences, but that after centuries of separation, we are again made one in Christ Jesus. Warnings were also given that Satan does not favor such a union and that we need to be watchful that this which is the source of our joy does not become a weapon in the adversary's hand to do us injury. Conference closed with singing, "Blest be the tie that binds."

J. S. Hartzler, Secretary.

INTRODUCTION

To the Minutes of the Amish Mennonite Conference of Indiana and Michigan.

Preceding the year 1888 the Amish Mennonites held Conferences, but there was no district conference for the state of Indiana prior to 1888. The Conferences held prior to 1888 were general, that is, they were held in different states or districts each conference year. In a number of these early conferences the German language was used.

Since these early conferences do not belong to Indiana and Michgan District proper, and since they are taken up in another part of this book, this section of the book begins at once with the conference minutes for the Indiana and Michigan District, which held its first session in the year 1888.

In collecting these minutes for publication some of the records were found incomplete which you will note as you read them. A few changes were made in the wording, also a few omissions. However in making these omissions and changes we endeavored to in no case depreciate the usefulness of these minutes. With these omissions and changes the original thoughts are retained, only expressed in a different way.

In reading the minutes for the year 1889 you will note that the minutes of the conference were taken in German as well as in English. We are recording only the English minutes here.

May these few explanations help you to read this section of the book with interest and understanding.

Amos Hostettler.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Maple Grove Church, Hawpatch, Lagrange County, Indiana, April 7, 1888

"Minutes of the first Annual District Conference for the state of Indiana, of the Amish Mennonite Church."

Conference was held at Maple Grove Church, Hawpatch, Lagrange, Indiana, April 7, 1888.

By motion Jonathan Smoker was chosen moderator and J. S. Hartzler secretary for the day. Several questions were then handed in and read, followed by prayer by Brother J. Smoker. The moderator then delivered an address on Church Government, each minister giving consent to same.

Singing.

Adjourned.

Called to order by moderator at 1:30 P. M. On motion it was decided to have conference some time in future without specifying time. Question was presented concerning funds for evangelizing. Decided that each minister use his influence to teach the people the need of such funds.

Was decided that if some one be requested to come to Logan Co., Ohio, that he should go.

Ques. 1. Can one who has been baptized upon the confession of his faith by a minister who has been baptized in infancy and upholds infant baptism, be taken into the church without rebaptism?

Decided in the affirmative.

Ques. 2. Is it a minister's place to perform the duties generally performed by a deacon?

Decided that some one else better perform them.

Ques. 3. Is it in a deacon's place to perform the duties generally performed by a minister?

Decided that in case of necessity, it is right.

Ques. 4. Can one who has married a second time, having first companion living yet, and who made a profession of religion before second marriage, be taken into the church as a brother or sister?

Majority in favor of taking such a one into the church, but was given into the hands of the Nappanee ministers, it being their case.

Some remarks were made concerning evangelizing some parts of Kansas and Nebraska.

Decided that some one shall go.

Ques. 5. What is the church's duty towards brethren and sisters who have not communed for many years?. Have been interviewed, and still do not.

Decided that every one put forth more energy in their several churches looking up such members.

Adjournment.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Forks Church, Lagrange County, Indiana, May 16, 1889

"Minutes of the second Annual District Conference for Indiana, of the Amish Mennonite Church."

On the 16th of May, 1889, a number of ministers and deacons of the Amish Mennonite Church, also several ministers of the Mennonite Church assembled at 3 o'clock P. M. at the Forks Church in Lagrange Co., Indiana.

Words of admonition were spoken and prayer was offered by Bro. Daniel Miller of Howard Co., Ind. Jonathan Smoker of Nappanee was chosen moderator and J. S. Coffman of Elkhart, Ind., secretary.

This meeting was called to make arrangements for the conference proper when assembled to-morrow.

A resolution was passed that the minutes of the Conference held at Hawpatch, Ind., about a year ago should be read before Conference when fully convened to-morrow.

After arranging a number of questions for the consideration of Conference, prayer was offered, a hymn sung, and conference adjourned to meet the next day at 9 A. M.

Conference proper convened May 17, 9 A. M., at above named place. A lesson was read, comments made, and prayer offered by Jos. Buerkey of Bureau Co., Ill.

J. P. Smoker of Nappanee was chosen Moderator and Jos. Buerkey Asst. Moderator. John Smith of Metamora, Ill., was chosen German Secretary, and J. S. Coffman of Elkhart, Ind., English Secretary. On the suggestion of the Moderator all the ministers present (25 in number) spoke in succession, calling attention to the work of the ministry, the necessity of earnest, prudent labor, to build up the Church. The need of faithfully enforcing the discipline, that our Churches be not swallowed up in worldliness allowed by many around us in calling themselves Christians. Their willingness to abide by and contend for the truths of the Gospel as they have been taught and confessed by the Church in years gone by.

Many earnest and feeling admonitions were given, and all

seemed to be of one heart and mind to maintain a doctrine that leads souls to a pure, holy life, separated from the world, and wholly consecrated to God. The minutes of last year's Conference held at Hawpatch were then read by J. S. Hartzler and approved. The minutes of yesterday's meeting with the questions arranged for consideration by conference to-day were read in both German and English.

Questions were then considered.

Ques. 1. Where one of the ministering brethren preaches a funeral for a person holding a life insurance policy or where some one else holds a life insurance policy on him, is it right for the minister to sign a statement to the effect that he preached this individual's funeral, saw him buried, knows that the deceased is the individual that he is represented to be, etc.?

Ans. The cause of this question was explained by the moderator to be the fact that some of our ministers have been called upon after funerals to sign such statements, sometimes more than one, revealing the fact that sometimes a number of persons are holding policies on the life of the same person in different companies. With a view of getting an expression of the Conference, as to the sentiment prevailing concerning life insurance generally, the question was asked why this question was brought before this Conference.

The dangers of covetousness and other evils in connection with life insurance, along with a want of a trust in God which it fosters, were presented in a way that showed the Church and Conference to be positively opposed to Life Insurance,

The answer adopted was:—It is not right. Because the foundation of the whole matter is "The love of money which is the root of all evil" and is a violation of Matt. 6:2-4; Luke 16:13.

Ques. 2. Is it advisable to ask applicants for membership whether they have any connection with any secret organization?

In the remarks that followed the reading of this question each speaker who took part showed in a manner that gave no uncertain sound that the church is still as in the past opposed to secrecy, that secret organizations do not harmonize with the Word of God and must be kept out of the Church.

Ans. It is advisable as a guard against taking members of secret organizations in to the church. Also see John 18:20; Matt. 5:14.

Ques. 3. When members or such as have been members of some of our churches in the distance which churches claim to teach and live the principles of the Gospel the same as does that part of the Mennonite Church represented by this Conference, shall such persons be received into membership at a distance from

their homes when they intend to live where they formerly held membership, but intend to disclaim any connection with the congregation where they formerly had their church home?

Ans. Resolved, That generally they should not, and in exceptional cases only when good Scriptural reasons can be given, that they should be received.

Decided that question and answer should not be published on account of danger of misconstruction.

Ques. 4. What can be done that more may be accomplished in building up our churches in the West?

Earnest appeals were made by the Brethren Buerkey, McGowen and others that the ministers faithfully labor in spreading the Gospel, and that the laity support them with the money to defray not only their traveling expenses but also their wants that they may have.

Ans. More can be done by showing ourselves truly in earnest, by prayer and reading the Scriptures in the families, and teaching the children the principles of a nonresistant life, a life for God alone. A life separate from the world. Much can also be done by faithful attendance of the parents with their children at the church services and Sunday school where our people have them, not making excuses for not attending, when little hindrances come in the way; visitors, inclement weather, etc Much can also be done by spending time on the part of the ministry, in the work of evangelizing, and by spending money by the laity to help the scattered members and small churches where there are few ministers or none to teach the doctrine of the Scriptures as we understand them.

Ques. 5. Shall this Conference have the right to call into question any bishop, minister or deacon in any of the churches represented by this conference if he fails to lead his church according to the Gospel?

Ans. Yes, but only after such bishop, minister or deacon has been instructed and admonished by his fellow ministers according to the requirements of the Gospel concerning all transgressors.

Ques. 6. To what extent shall members be allowed to hold secular offices?

The dangers to all who hold secular offices were clearly pointed out, as well as the evils into which many public officers fall, the inconsistency of nonresistant, nonswearing professors holding offices where they would be required to administer oaths, sue at law to make collections, etc., was shown in earnest appeals by a number of the brethren.

Ans. The brethren should not hold secular offices for the reason that we are called to a higher calling, and because great

dangers beset those who seek and hold them. Only a few offices such as Christians need—school directors, road supervisors should be held at all by the brethren, and those only of necessity.

Ques. 7. What can be done to prevent members of our faith from being led away by forms of doctrine which do not teach the observance of all the ordinances and nonconformity to the world, etc.?

Ans. Much can be done by warning the people against teachers who are not presenting the whole truth, and are in the meantime earnestly contending for the unity of the different branches of the Church. Also by enforcing discipline and keeping the church clean of these innovations, not simply preaching against them. By earnest prayer for the ministry, that all our teachers may earnestly and feelingly teach the whole truth, and by contending for the truth in our private conversations much can be done by the laity.

Ques. 8. If there are duties that require the attention of a deacon and there is no deacon in that church, who should attend to such duties?

Ans. The church shall appoint brethren to attend to such duties.

The following decision of the meeting of yesterday was to have been brought before the Conference in order to bring out some expression that might encourage still greater unity in the church.

Decided that any of the ministers who desire shall speak at the Conference with regard to the unity of the churches, and especially of the necessity of gathering in the smaller churches into the several Conferences.

It was regretted that there was not time for this subject. A committee was appointed to decide upon time and place to hold the next Conference.

Many of the brethren and sisters of the surrounding churches attended the Conference and appeared to be deeply and profitably interested in the proceedings.

After prayer by Bro. Buerkey, and singing by the congregation, Conference adjourned.

John Smith,
J. S. Coffman,
Secretaries.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Clinton Church, Elkhart, Indiana, May 15, 1890

Several ministers of the Amish Church assembled at the Clinton Church, Elkhart, Ind., May 14, 1890, at 3 o'clock P. M. to arrange the work for Conference the next day. J. P. Smoker of Nappanee gave a short admonition and led in prayer after which J. P. Smoker was chosen Moderator and J. S. Hartzler of Hawpatch Secretary for the day. After a number of questions were arranged Conference adjourned to meet next day at 10 A. M. Conference met the next morning at the appointed time. J. P. Smoker read a very appropriate Scripture for the occasion, with a few comments, after which he led in prayer.

Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was then chosen Moderator, J. P. Smoker Asst. Moderator and J. S. Hartzler Secretary.

After a short exhortation by the Moderator, each minister in turn spoke as to their willingness to build on that true rock, Christ Jesus, to work for unity and love, the need of enforcing discipline, the vastness of the work, etc.

By request the minutes of last year's Conference were read by the Secretary, also the questions which had been arranged the day before were read and then separately taken up and discussed.

Ques. 1. Shall this Conference receive churches under its charge, upon application which are willing to abide by the rulings of this Conference, but live in other states?

After some discussion the following answer was adopted: Yes, for there we may gain influence for good and may be a help to them from drifting into the world. However such churches shall report to each Conference their condition and needs either by letter or by delegate.

Ques. 2. Should we receive members from other denominations by letter, who have been baptized upon the confession of their faith, the applicant being absent?

J. P. Smoker gave the circumstances that gave rise to this question. Viz. A brother of the Baptist Church living in Tahama Co., Cal., living far from any of that persuasion asked to be received in this way.

Ans. Yes, upon their answering the necessary questions, and such applicant being instructed in Gospel principles as we understand them and have not the opportunity of uniting with a nonresistant church, near his home, without doing anything contrary to the Word of God as he understands it.

Ques. 3. How can we do more to organize churches of our faith where there are none now?

Ans. More can be done by earnest prayer on the part of the laity and ministers, by the laity giving of the money to support ministers and missionaries of our faith, who spend their money and time to Evangelize.

By the evangelizing ministers making longer stays at such places, and even if necessary to take up temporary abode.

Earnest appeals were made by several of the ministers, and it is hoped that ministers and laity will seek to do more in this direction.

Ques. 4. What can be done to promote greater union and harmony between churches of our faith?

Ans. We may promote greater union and harmony by ministers exchanging pulpits oftener, by making application of Phil. 2:3, 4 to churches as well as to individuals, by working to gain each others' confidence, by having the love of God shed abroad in the heart and thereby getting more love for each other.

Ques. 5. Should a minister have the right to perform the duties generally performed by a bishop?

Ans. Yes, by the consent of the bishop who has the oversight of the church in which said minister lives, he shall have the right to perform all the duties of a bishop except to ordain bishops, ministers and deacons.

Ques. 6. Should not ministers greatly discourage the marriage of members to non-professors?

Ans. Yes.

Ques. 7. Does this Conference see fit that, when a minister leaves his church, being dissatisfied and unites with another of like faith, he should preach?

Ans. In as much as that mars the harmony between church districts and promotes division, this Conference does not see fit that such minister should preach unless the church drifts from the principles of the Gospel as understood by this Conference.

On motion it was decided that Ques. 3 and its answer of last year be sent to the Herald of Truth for publication with the minutes of this year.

After some explanation as to the object of a general Conference, it was decided that this Conference express itself decidedly in favor of a General Conference. Jonathan Kurtz and Jonathan Smoker were appointed as a committee to look after the interests of the church in Cheyenne Co., Nebr., which was accepted under the charge of this Conference.

The Moderator then appointed J. P. Smoker, J. S. Hartzler

and Jos. D. Miller as a committee to choose time and place to hold the next conference.

By motion it was decided to cancel "and his church" in answer to Ques. 5 of last year.

The number of brethren and sisters from this and other churches who were present and the interest that prevailed, shows that the interest in this work is still growing.

After prayer by Samuel Detweiler from Logan Co., Ohio, Conference adjourned.

J. S. Hartzler, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Nappanee Amish Church, April 2, 1891

On the 2nd of April, 1891, a number of Amish and Mennonite ministers assembled at Nappanee Amish Church at time and place appointed to hold the Amish Mennonite Conference.

At 9:30 A. M., Conference was opened by singing a number of hymns after which Bro. J. P. Smoker gave an address of welcome and an admonition to prayer and called on Bro. N. Sproll of Howard Co., Ind., who led in prayer.

In the absence of Bro. J. Kurtz, the moderator of last year's Conference, the assistant moderator and Bro. J. P. Smoker acted as moderators during the organization.

Bro. D. J. Johns of Goshen, Ind., was elected Moderator and J. S. Hartzler of Hawpatch Secretary. Bro. Jos. Buerkey of Burean Co., Ill., was elected Asst. Moderator.

Bro. Johns then read a part of the 11th chapter of Acts and presented some of the objects to be accomplished by this Conference. That it was not to make commandments but to confer ideas and to get a better understanding of the Word of God and to work in greater harmony for the welfare of the several churches, the Holy Spirit to guide us in the work before us, and that Articles of Confession while they are right and proper in their place, they should not be set ahead of God's Holy Word, but should be kept in their place.

Bro. Johns then showed forth the way in which Jesus founded His Church and how it was afterwards provided with deacons and elders and how it was to be thus governed and that he (Bro. Johns) by the help of God desired to build on that Rock Christ Jesus and by God's grace to teach the Church by example and by precept the principles as set forth in the Word of God. To keep out of the vanities of the world and the inconsistency of worldly religion. All the ministers then present spoke in turn and by

appropriate remarks expressed themselves entirely in harmony with the thoughts presented by Bro. Johns.

After the reading of the questions to be discussed and singing, Conference was dismissed for noon.

A basket dinner was then served which was very orderly and pleasantly enjoyed.

We were enjoyably surprised to see Brethren C. Z. Yoder and Peter Conrad of Wayne Co., Ohio and J. Kurtz of Hawpatch, Ind., come into our midst during the noon hour.

At 1 o'clock Conference was again opened by singing. Bro. J. F. Funk then led in prayer after which the brethren who came during the noon hour spoke very appropriately for a few minutes.

The following question was then read:

Ques. 1. Why do the nonresistant churches hold close communion?

Ans. After much discussion in which the inconsistency of open communion was set forth, the following answer was adopted: In as much as communion expresses a union of the body of Christ, His Church (I Cor. 10:16, 17), and with Christ the head of the Church (I Cor. 11:26), and we hold that swearing of oaths, resistance, infant baptism, secret orders, worldly conformity, etc., are not in accordance with the Word of God, we can not be in union with such.

Ques. 2. Should a member have a church letter at all if not worthy of a good one?

Several answers were given on this question, but it was decided to adopt the following:

A certificate of membership may be given to one who is not in perfect good standing in the church, but the circumstances should be fully stated in the certificate and the church receiving the letter should deal with the member according to the circumstances.

Ques. 3. When brethren and sisters visit one another should they not spend their time in religious conversation and exhortation rather than in talking about temporal affairs, in vain and foolish conversation and idle gossip?

After much discussion on the subject it was decided to leave the question over till the next day. A hymn was then sung and Bro. Jos. Buerkey led in prayer and conference proper adjourned and the work was arranged for next day's conference.

At 9 A. M., April 3, Conference was called to order by the moderator. A hymn was sung and Bro. Sproll of Howard Co., Ind., gave a short exhortation on prayer and Bro. Kurtz led in prayer, after which Ques. 3 was again read and discussed.

Ans. The whole object of life should be to glorify God and

to help each other on our way from earth to heaven, and as there is so much food for the soul in such, etc., we would by all means say "Yes" when conducted in accordance with the Word of God and to the upbuilding of the church.

Ques. 4. What is the object of the church holding council meetings?

Ans. The object of the council meeting is to see that there is peace and harmony in the church, and to remind us of the duty of preparing to observe the sacred ordinances of communion and feet washing.

Ques. 5. How should above object be accomplished with members who do not attend council meeting?

Ans. They should be visited in order to ascertain the cause of their absence, and to remind them of the duties set forth in answer to Ques. 4 and the result reported at the next meeting.

Ques. 6. What does this Conference understand the Gospel to teach in reference to members of such organizations as: Grangers, Farmers' Alliance, Patrons of Industry, and various other labor unions?

Ans. Whereas, the Grangers, F. A., P. of I.'s and the various other labor unions are purely worldly institutions and whereas they are secret organizations and whereas the members of nearly all such organizations are under oath; therefore be it,

Resolved, That this Conference oppose any connection of our members with such organizations according to II Cor. 6:14-18.

Ques. 7. What ought we do towards furnishing a church home for the converted poor of our large cities?

For want of time after some warm sympathy was expressed and the question was somewhat discussed, the question was tabled.

After singing a hymn Conference adjourned for dinner.

At 1 o'clock Conference was opened by singing and prayer. A report of the church in Cheyenne Co., Nebr., was then read. Bro. J. P. Smoker and Bro. Jos. Buerkey of Burean Co., Ill., then gave a report of the mission work that was done there.

On motion it was decided that the present minister Nicholas Roth, should perform the duties generally performed by a bishop as far as permission is given by Bro. Buerkey. A letter was then read from the church in Oregon petitioning to be received into this Conference. It was decided to receive them. To J. P. Smoker was then given the oversight of the church there and it was decided that Bro. Smoker should give Bro. P. D. Mishler the right to perform the ceremonies generally performed by a bishop so far as Bro. Smoker may see fit according to the circumstances.

After this a resolution was passed as follows:

Whereas, the different publishing houses are making a great

effort to get their literature into our homes, Sunday schools, and churches, and whereas said literature does not generally uphold nonresistant principles; therefore be it,

Resolved, That we advise all ministers, Sunday-school workers and especially parents to put forth their earnest efforts to keep out such literature, and on the other hand encourage the circulation of such literature as corresponds with the principles advocated by this Conference, especially the lesson helps published by the Mennonite Publishing House. It was thought best to leave the rest of the question and to talk some on evangelizing.

Bro. Coffman of Elkhart, Ind., opened the subject by some soul-stirring remarks as to the necessity of more earnest prayerful work for the Lord, and some of the difficulties in the way and how to overcome them. Some of the other brethren made some earnest appeals for this great work.

Brethren Sproll of Howard Co., Ind., Kurtz of Hawpatch and McGowan of Nappanee were then chosen as a committee to make out time and place for the next Conference.

We have not the space to give some of the glorious thoughts as they were presented by the brethren during these two days' work. After prayer by Bro. Hartzler Conference adjourned.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Howard Church, June 2, 1892

On the 2nd of June, 1892 a number of ministers met at the Howard Co. Church at 8 o'clock A. M. to arrange some questions for Conference.

Bro. D. J. Johns of Goshen, Ind., was elected Moderator, Bro. E. A. Mast of Kokomo, Ind., was chosen Asst. Moderator, Bro. J. S. Hartzler of Hawpatch was elected Secretary, and Bro. D. D. Miller of Goshen, Ind., was chosen Asst. Secretary.

After questions were arranged, Conference proper opened at 10 o'clock by singing. Bro. Mast gave an address of welcome and an exhortation to prayer and led in prayer. Bro. Johns then read twenty verses of the 15th chapter of The Acts and gave an address in which he explained the object of the apostles coming together. That it was to confer ideas pertaining to the welfare of the church and that that is the object we should have in view in our conference work. He also showed that the nonresistant, nonconformed doctrine was the doctrine of the Sacred Word, and that dress was not the only way in which we could be conformed to the world; but that there are many ways; however that dress was one of the ways of worldly conformity and that as much as

God gives him grace his desire was to warn the people of all these and work to the best interest of the church.

Each minister in turn then answered and heartily endorsed the thoughts presented by the moderator. The following resolution was then unanimously passed by the laity:

Resolved, That we as the laity heartily endorse the thoughts presented by the ministry in reference to unity, nonconformity to the world, nonresistance and conformity to the will of God and that we will as much as God gives us grace stand by and help the ministry in upholding such doctrine.

Ques. 1. How far have we as Christians a right to use the law?

This was discussed at considerable length. It was shown that we cannot get along without the law in such things as transfers of property, etc.

Ans. In case of difficulty between man and man, use any possible means to bring about an arbitration and where none can be affected use the law only by the consent of the church by giving a full statement of the case before the church. Where it does not affect our fellow man use it according to the Word of God.

Conference adjourned for noon.

The afternoon session was opened by singing after which Bro. C. K. Yoder of Logan Co., Ohio led in prayer.

Ques. 2. Can it be acknowledged as right that a brother dam up or hinder in any way the water in its course, so that it falls back on some one else when it can be carried off without harm to any one?

Ans. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matt. 7:12).

Ques. 3. Is it to the upbuilding of the nonresistant churches to have their members unite in marriage with members of the so-called popular churches?

Ans. We would advise that our brethren and sisters choose companions of the nonresistant faith, because such a choosing would have a tendency to maintain union in the church and the home.

Ques. 4. What does this Conference consider the proper way of electing Sunday-school officers?

Ans. As the Sunday school is the nursery of the church and is intended to prepare the characters of our children for the church it certainly ought to be under the supervision of the church.

Ques. 5. Is it the duty of any minister, brother, or sister according to Matt. 5:23, 24 to go and see his fellow minister, brother, or sister who is offended because of a difference of opinion in ref-

erence to some church work? If so, how is the reconciliation to be brought about when both parties claim to have the Word of God on their side?

Ans. Conference does not consider Matt. 5:23, 24 to apply to this question unless such minister, brother, or sister has given just cause for offense, in which case such person shall act according to Matt. 5:23, 24.

Ques. 6. What are some of the greatest essentials in Evangelistic work?

Ans. To accomplish greatest results the minister must be saved, filled with the spirit, definite, prayerful, humble, earnest, full of faith, conscious of the importance of his work, and persevering. The laity must be humble, prayerful, liberal, earnest, and self-sacrificing.

It was decided to omit further questions for the day and after some discussion the following resolution was framed and unanimously passed.

Resolved, That those who become disobedient to the church of which any bishop, connected with this Conference has the oversight, can not be owned as a part of this Conference.

The moderator called on Bro. D. Z. Yoder of Sterling, Wayne Co., Ohio, who led in prayer after singing. Conference adjourned to meet next day at 9 o'clock A. M.

June 3rd, Conference was opened by singing a number of hymns after which Bro. Johns read I Cor. 3, gave an admonition and called on Bro. Daniel Yoder of Lynn Grove, Adams Co., Ind., who led in prayer.

Ques. 7. Is it advisable that our members invest their means in Bank Stock?

Ans. This Conference would advise that our members use their means in other ways as there is danger of violating II Cor. 6:24.

Ques. 8. A and B have a difficulty but have never met to arbitrate. A seeks an arbitration through the church by representing his side of the case. B is willing to arbitrate by selecting three disinterested men. A objects to arbitrate in this way. Both are brothers in the same church.

Ans. We advise that such brethren begin anew, and act according to Matt. 18:15-17. If such church has knowledge of such case and such brethren neglect to act according to Matt. 18, such church should deal with them as transgressors.

Ques. 9. What course does Conference advise to pursue with brethren or sisters who neglect to partake of communion, and how long can such be borne to the edification of the church?

Ans. The church should be governed by circumstances, but

in general, at least after second neglect act according to Gal. 6:1. If this fail, the reason should be ascertained and reported to the church and the church act accordingly.

On motion it was decided to leave the rest of the questions and spend some of the time in pointing out some of the faults into which ministers are liable to fall, so that we might avoid them.

This was interesting and if each one of us tried we could find something that would be of use to us and make us more efficient workers in the church.

The following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That this Conference express a hearty opposition to the traffic in liquor as a beverage which to-day causes thousands of young men to stay away from the church, and which brings misery, woe, and broken hearts to the home, and profits no one but the parties who sell it, and that only financially. For it brings a curse to the soul. Hab. 2:5.

Resolved, That instead of a committee to select time and place for next Conference a corresponding secretary be selected whose duty it shall be to find out the time the different conferences are to be held, and select an appropriate time for our conference and have said time with the place selected by this Conference, published in the Herald of Truth three months before time for such Conference, and that place for such Conference be chosen now.

Bro. J. B. Miller of Middlebury, Ind., was elected corresponding secretary, and Hawpatch church was chosen for next Conference.

After resolutions were passed a hymn was sung and prayer offered, Conference adjourned.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Maple Grove Church, Lagrange County, Indiana, June 3, 1893

As previously announced in the Herald of Truth, a number of ministers met at the Maple Grove Church, Lagrange Co., Ind., to hold Conference June 3, 1893.

After singing, an address of welcome and an exhortation to prayer was made by Jonathan Kurtz. Bro. Sebastian Gerich led in prayer.

Bro. Johns was elected Moderator who chose Bro. J. P. Smoker Asst. Moderator. Bro. J. S. Hartzler and John Smith were elected Secretaries. Bro. Johns then read I Cor. 3:1-9 and gave

an exhortation in which he showed the necessity of building on the true foundation Jesus Christ and not upon man.

Paul and Barnabas were sent by the church at Antioch, to Jerusalem to hold a conference with the apostles. That conference sent word back to the church at Antioch that they should abstain from pollutions of idols, from fornication, from things strangled, and from blood. Yet Paul gives us to understand that an idol is nothing, yet the church at Antioch was advised to abstain from them. So we should ever be on the lookout for such things that are to the edification of the church. We should all teach the same things, should meet to get a better understanding of the Word and of the things that tend to the building of the church, swearing of oaths, secret orders, conformity to the world, and many other evils were pointed out as the things that have a tendency to draw many away from the True Light. The fact that people are required to forswear themselves with such horrible oaths ought to satisfy any intelligent man that no Christian can stand thereby.

The nonresistant, nonconformed doctrine keeps the people on a common level.

Bro. Smoker heartily endorsed what had been said. We must put forth all our efforts to save our young people from the many enticements set forth to ensnare them.

Conference should be held to confer ideas and to build up union in the various parts of God's vineyard, and to build up a stronger bulwark against the enemy.

Each minister then endorsed the thoughts presented in a way that showed a union of mind and heart.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted by the laity:

Resolved, That we as a brotherhood rejoice to know that our ministers are still minded to teach the true principles of the Gospel as taught by Christ and His apostles and that we as a brotherhood will help the ministers by prayer, example and word in upholding these plain doctrines.

After singing a hymn Conference adjourned.

At 8 o'clock Conference convened when the following questions were discussed and their several answers adopted.

Ques. 1. What has been accomplished by the Evangelizing ministers?

Ans. Much has been done by awakening the ministry to the great need of more evangelizing work and awakening the dormant churches and it has been a means of bringing many souls to Christ.

Ques. 2. What is the feeling in the different churches connected therewith toward the evangelizing work?

Ans. According to the reports given by the different ministers it is manifest that the interest in behalf of the evangelizing work is growing in the different churches.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we encourage the evangelizing by teaching the brethren and sisters to support the work financially and by word and prayer and that the ministers make the sacrifice of home and go out into the evangelizing work teaching the deep spiritual truths that tend downward to humility and upward to God.

Ques. 3. What is the effect upon the doctrine of nonconformity, as taught by Christ and His apostles, to use decorations, expensive tombstones, etc., for the dead?

Ans. To have a good plain coffin and a plain tombstone for our dead is right and proper, but costly coffins and grave clothes adorned with needless ornaments as well as display of flowers, plumes on hearses, etc., and costly tombstones should be avoided because it leads to worldly conformity and a turning away from a pure and undefiled religion according to Jas. 1:27.

Ques. 4. If a brother or sister hears an evil report of a member what course should be taken to investigate?

Ans. According to Gal. 6:1 we should investigate by such members first of whom said report is given. If satisfactory evidence can not be received in this way trace back to the originator.

Conference was then closed for the day by song and prayer.

The evening meeting was well attended. It was thought to have ten minute speeches by a number of ministers on "Work with and for our young people." This was both interesting and profitable. In these short speeches some good thoughts were presented to our minds which we hope may bring forth much fruit.

June 2nd, Conference was opened at 9 o'clock A. M. by singing. The moderator then called on Bro. Peter Rupp to give a short exhortation to prayer and to lead in prayer.

Ques. 5. What is or has been the motive and what has been accomplished for the cause of Christ by our young people's meetings?

Ans. The motive is to implant the truth of God into the young hearts, to cultivate a love for good and for our place of worship. Much has been done in the way of getting better acquainted with the Word of God and drawing out the good qualities in our young people. But that these results may be obtained the greatest care should be taken by both old and young that these meetings may not be a means of self-exaltation instead of humility and spiritual power.

Ques. 6. What would be the effect upon the church in reference to spirituality and numbers to give more privilege to conform to the fashions of this world in the way of dress?

Ans. Worldly conformity deadens spirituality and debars God's blessings, therefore it will lessen the spirituality of the church and eventually even the numbers.

After singing a hymn Conference was dismissed.

At one o'clock Conference was again called to order. Bro. Jacob Ringenberg conducted the devotional exercises after which it was thought best to take up the miscellaneous work. Bro. Kurtz was appointed to take charge of the Pretty Prairie church as there is no minister there. It was thought advisable for an evangelist to visit the weaker churches in the state. Bro. J. S. Hartzler was appointed for the ensuing year. Bro. J. H. McGowen was elected corresponding secretary for the next year.

Ques. 7. What is the sentiment of this Conference in regard to infant baptism?

Ans. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." The whole tenor of the Gospel is that Faith comes first therefore we can under no circumstances receive such as have been baptized in infancy without rebaptism.

Ques. 8. Does this Conference consider the World's Fair a proper place for our people to attend?

Ans. It is the sense of this Conference that the World's Fair is not the place to attend. It is an unwise and unprofitable way of spending time and money. The good that is attempted there is not an excuse to go there. The spiritual atmosphere and the soul food that one would be subject to there would not be conducive to spiritual growth. II Cor. 6:16, 17; Eze. 27.

Ques. 9. Should the ministry encourage the ordination of deacons in the different congregations?

Ans. We believe it to be essential to the prosperity and growth of the church to have a deacon in each congregation and in full accordance with the example and work of the apostles therefore it should be encouraged.

The ministers, brethren and sisters from abroad passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That we as visitors from abroad extend our heartfelt thanks for the kindness and hospitality shown us by the Hawpatch people while attending this Conference. On motion it was decided to hold our next Conference at the Forks Church at the time decided upon by the corresponding secretary. After a few remarks by the moderator and assistant and a closing prayer, Conference adjourned.

10 bishops and 15 ministers were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Forks Church, Middlebury, Indiana, April 12, 1894

On the 12th of April, 1894 at 9 A. M. a number of the Amish and Mennonite ministers met at the Forks Church to arrange some questions for Conference. After the questions were arranged, Conference proper opened at 10 A. M., by singing, after which Bishop J. Kurtz of Ligonier, Ind., read the 4th chapter of Ephesians, followed by a few remarks and prayer. Bro. John K. Yoder of Orrville, Ohio, was then elected Moderator, Bro. J. H. McGowen of Nappanee, Ind., Asst. Moderator, and Bro. D. D. Miller of Middlebury, Ind., Secretary, and Bro. J. S. Hartzler of Topeka, Ind., Asst. Secretary.

The moderator read Acts 15:1-29. In his remarks he referred to the blessings of God towards us, in permitting us to meet from different places to consult together over the important work in which we are engaged, and to see whether we are still willing to hold fast to the faith and practice as given us by Christ and His apostles and practiced by our forefathers. He also referred to the duties of ministers in conference work. We should all take an active part and be together in brotherly love. The congregation can help by prayer and good attention. Our churches are scattered all the way from eastern Pennsylvania to Oregon, and can not all be brought exactly under the same order. Yet we want to be together in love regardless of this, and help each other in the work as much as possible. We should not get "order of the church" and Faith mixed. From time to time different work presents itself and therefore we find it necessary to meet and counsel with one another. Bro. J. Kurtz then plainly set forth the doctrines to which we hold, also our rules of order, and the necessity of the same. The ministers present then expressed themselves in harmony with the principles that were set forth and expressed a desire to continue in teaching and practicing the same by God's help. By a unanimous vote of the brotherhood present, the remarks of the ministers were endorsed. After reading several questions which were to be discussed in the afternoon, and singing, conference was dismissed.

Conference was opened at 1 o'clock by singing, a few remarks and a prayer by Sebastian Gerig. The questions were brought before Conference.

Ques. 1. Does this Conference sanction the ordination of deaconesses in congregations where so desired?

Ans. Inasmuch as we believe that the Holy Spirit sanctions

deaconesses; and as we find such examples in the Apostolic church, we sanction such ordinations where qualified sisters are found and where the congregation so desires, in accordance with Article IX in our "Confession of Faith."

Ques. 2. Does this Conference deem it advisable to ordain a minister in each church district, as requested by the evangelizing board?

Ans. This Conference believes that the amount of work to be done requires the ordination of at least one more brother to the ministry, in each congregation where properly qualified persons are found in accordance with the request of the evangelizing board.

Ques. 3. Is it right for our people of our faith to hold office in which they are authorized to administer oaths?

Ans. No. We are called to a higher calling than holding such offices, and great dangers are besetting those who are seeking and holding them.

Ques. 4. Is it advisable for a minister to get the consent of his congregation before leaving his home for evangelizing work?

Ans. Every congregation should be willing to make some sacrifice so that the minister can carry out Matt. 28:19, 20. However in a general sense we deem it unnecessary for the minister to get a formal consent from his congregation.

Ques. 5. Would it be advisable for our people to accept a brother as a minister who does not believe it to be in opposition to the Word of God to swear oaths?

Ans. Inasmuch as such minister is unsound in the faith as taught by Christ and the apostles, we positively say No. Read Matt. 5:34; James 5:12.

Ques. 6. Does this Conference deem it proper to call in ministers from neighboring congregations to settle difficulties?

Ans. Generally speaking, each congregation should try to settle its own difficultes, but where such difficulties can not be settled satisfactorily in this way, others of like faith should be called in to aid in the work.

Ques. 7. Do we believe it to be edifying to the church in general to take deacons into the lot in the ordination of a bishop?

After considerable discussion on the question a motion was made to leave Ques. 7 for the day and take it up next morning. The conference was then closed by prayer by J. M. Shenk and singing by the congregation, to meet next morning at 9 o'clock.

Friday morning at 9 o'clock Conference opened by singing followed by the reading of I Cor. 12:1-9 and prayer by J. H. McGowen.

Ques. 7 was now read and amended and after some discus-

sion on it, the following answer was adopted: We should be governed by circumstances but in general we do not believe it to be edifying to the church.

On motion the Maryland matter was brought before the Conference. Bro. J. P. Smoker had received several letters from a small church at Gwinn, Md., which desires to be taken under the care of this Conference. After the reading of the letters and some explanation it was decided that said church be taken under the care of this Conference with the provision, viz: That as soon as a Conference nearer Maryland will receive them we advise them to unite with them. On motion Bro. J. P. Smoker was chosen to take charge of the above named church in Maryland. A letter from Eugene, Oregon, was then read and some explanations were made. The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That this Conference ask Bro. Joseph Schlegel of Seward Co., Nebr., to go to Oregon and serve the church there as they may need. In case Bro. Schlegel can not go, then the evangelizing board shall select another bishop to make the trip.

The appointment of Bro. Silas Yoder of Goshen, Ind., as a member of the evangelizing board, by the last evangelizing meeting was approved by this Conference.

Resolved, That this Conference recognizes the necessity of publishing a German Hymn and Tune book, as was proposed by the Conference in Seward Co., Nebr., in 1891, and we herewith authorize J. F. Funk and Jos. S. Lehman of Elkhart to select a committee to compile the book. Bros. Funk and Lehman then chose the following committee: A. B. Kolb, J. S. Coffman, John Horsch, J. S. Hartzler, and C. Z. Yoder.

The following resolutions were then read and after an intermission for noon a lengthy discussion followed, after which it was adopted.

Whereas, the last two Sunday School Conferences held in the last two years have met with widespread approval and have been very generally considered by those who attend as a means of edification to the church in general and advancement to the work therefore be it,

Resolved, 1. That a Sunday School Conference may be held to advantage if properly conducted.

2. That the leaders and speakers of the Sunday School Conference shall be earnest, consecrated, exemplary members of the church.

3. That the Sunday School Conference work should not be left too much in the hands of the younger members, but should be made a means of encouragment to the older and younger members to labor together in Sunday school and church work.

4. Whereas the past Sunday School Conferences have been very largely attended, therefore be it,

Resolved, That the work should be divided into districts so as to avoid excessive gatherings.

Resolved, That this Conference send two delegates to the Amish Mennonite Conference to be held at Hopedale, Ill., next fall, expense to be paid by this Conference. On motion Bro. D. J. Johns and Jonathan Kurtz were chosen as delegates to said Conference.

The subject of Mission work was then discussed and the following adopted:

Resolved, That Mission work in the cities and elsewhere is heartily approved of by this Conference, and that the Home Mission recently established in Chicago should be encouraged and supported by prayer, counsel, helpers and finances; provided that workers in said Mission teach and practice the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as accepted, taught and practiced by the congregations represented by this Conference. Then the workers in said Mission can expect such encouragement and support by said congregations.

Bro. J. S. Hartzler who has been laboring in the evangelistic work in our home church the last year then explained the great necessity of such work.

Bro. J. H. McGowen was elected as our home evangelist for the next conference year. Bro. D. D. Troyer was chosen corresponding secretary for the year.

On motion Bro. Jos. D. Miller was appointed to see that the Pretty Prairie congregation has regular services.

The following resolution was then read and adopted by those who were present from abroad:

Resolved, That we from abroad extend our heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters of this place for the hospitality while in their midst.

On motion it was decided to hold our next Conference at the Clinton Church at the time decided upon by the corresponding secretary.

Bro. J. S. Coffman then gave us a short address on evangelistic work.

The moderator then made a short closing address followed by prayer and a closing song. Conference adjourned.

8 bishops and 18 ministers were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Clinton Church, April 24, 1895

A number of ministers responded to the call in the Herald of Truth by assembling at the Clinton Church April 24, 1895, at 2 P. M., to make arrangements for Conference proper which was to meet next day. After a council of about two hours they adjourned to meet Thursday at 9 o'clock A. M.

Conference was called to order by the announcement of a hymn and singing. Bro. J. K. Yoder gave a few earnest admonitions and called upon Bro. J. P. Smoker to lead in prayer. A vote by ballot resulted in the election of Bro. J. Kurtz as Moderator and the brethren D. D. Miller and J. S. Hartzler as Secretaries. Bro. Kurtz then chose P. Y. Lehman as Asst. Moderator. Bro. Kurtz then proceeded to preach the conference sermon. He showed that Conference was for the welfare of the church in general and that we should all work with that special object in view and with a consciousness of the importance of all conference work. He said that many even at a distance from here were working with anxiety for the result of this Conference. If every member would be filled with the Holy Spirit as they should be it would not be necessary to have Conference so often. But such is not the case and even was not in the primitive church, as can be seen in the Acts of the Apostles.

Especially every minister must have this spirit to be a success in the Lord's work, and be such an example that he can say to his flock, "Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ." He then set forth our faith substantiating it with the Word of God. He showed what was man's part in the God-life; how that repentance, faith, humility, obedience to God's Word, especially in such things that are left back or neglected by many other churches, should be carefully studied by every minister and taught to the people. The government of the world belongs to the world and not to the church. The world is taking care of itself better than the professors of Christianity are taking care of the church. The Bible teaches nonconformity as plainly as it teaches repentance or any other principles of the doctrines of Christ. The assistant moderator heartily endorsed what had been said. He added that Paul would rather sacrifice even necessaries than cause offense to one brother. If we are not willing to give up the world and everything that is not in harmony with the Gospel we can not serve God with pleasure.

Each bishop, minister and deacon then responded to their

names by a hearty endorsement of the thoughts presented. The laity also expressed themselves in harmony with the thoughts set forth, by a rising vote.

The brethren J. S. Coffman, D. D. Miller and D. J. Johns were then appointed as a committee on resolutions and arrangements of questions. After the singing of a hymn Conference adjourned for one hour.

At 1 o'clock Conference was opened by singing. Bro. P. Y. Lehman then led in prayer. Several questions were read by the secretaries, which were read in the following order:

Ques. 1. What is the sentiment of this Conference in reference to choir singing?

Ans. Singing is a God-given talent, and all are admonished to sing and praise God. Therefore we unitedly discourage choir singing. Eph. 5:18, 19; Col. 3:16.

Ques. 2. Is it proper for any of our ministers to officiate in a marriage ceremony where one or both patries are non-professors?

Ans. Since our work is in the church and for the church, and since we are to be pure and holy beings, and since "to the defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure" (Titus 1:15) therefore this conference does not deem it proper. I Tim. 5:12; I Cor. 7:39; II Cor. 6:14.

Ques. 3. Is it consistent for Christians to insure in mutual or stock insurance companies?

Ans. Since in stock as well as in mutual insurance companies the object sought by the insured is a selfish one and not in accordance with I Cor. 10:24 and since in such companies there is a yoking with unbelievers in opposition to II Cor. 6:14, therefore we would answer it is inconsistent.

At 4 o'clock Conference adjourned.

Friday at 9 A. M. a hymn was announced and sung after which E. A. Mast read Acts 20:28-36 and led in prayer. It was decided to have the resolutions and miscellaneous business next.

Whereas occasionally a dissatisfied member in some of our congregations makes application to become a member of a congregation at a distance from the applicant's home and no scriptural reason for such change is apparent and, whereas we believe it to be detrimental to the peace and unity of the church and hurtful to the scriptural welfare of the applicant, therefore be it,

Resolved, That such applicant shall not be received into membership into any of the congregations that are in the same church Conference or such churches as work in harmony with said Conference.

Resolved, 2. That this Conference earnestly request our sister

conferences to pass similar resolution for the welfare of the church in general.

3. Whereas, the need of a convenient and appropriate English Hymn and Tune book has been long felt and whereas the Gospel Hymns does not contain hymns and tunes suitable for all occasions and book called Hymns and Tunes is not suitably arranged, therefore be it,

Resolved. That we favor the publication of new Hymns and Tunes book for the use of our churches which use the English language.

After discussing each one of these resolutions separately and adopting them, Conference adjourned for one hour.

After singing and prayer by Bro. Samuel H. Detweiler another resolution was taken up and adopted.

Resolved, That this Conference favor a General Conference and that we hereby appoint Bro. D. J. Johns to represent this Conference in arranging for said Conference.

Miscellaneous business was next in order. Bro. J. H. McGowen was called upon to give a report of his work as evangelist for the state. Bro. D. J. Johns was elected state evangelist for the next year. To Bro. Johns was given the right to send any minister on evangelizing work throughout the state, the expenses to be paid by this Conference district.

Bro. D. D. Miller was appointed corresponding secretary. It was decided to hold our next annual Conference at the Nappanee Church at such time as might be hereafter stated by the corresponding secretary.

It was decided to send one delegate to the Conference to be held at the Oak Grove Church, Wayne Co., Ohio, June 6 and 7. Bro. J. P. Smoker was chosen. Also to send one to the western Conference to be held some time in the autumn of this year. Bro. E. A. Mast was chosen as delegate for the western Conference.

Ques. 4. What does the kiss of charity signify? When and by whom should it be practiced?

Ans. It signifies the fullness of love, the charitable presence of reverence to God and universal respect for the brethren. It should be practiced by the brotherhood as well as the ministry. It should be practiced at religious gatherings, social visiting and upon such other occasions as may be deemed prudent, but care should be taken not to abuse the practice.

It was decided to omit further questions and have minute speeches by the different ministers. Some stirring remarks were made but for want of space we will refrain from giving any of them here. After a vote of thanks by those from abroad for their kind reception and prayer by Bro. J. K. Yoder, Conference ad-

journed with a general good feeling being manifested by all who took part in the conference work.

9 bishops were present, 8 ministers, and 2 deacons.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Nappanee Church, Elkhart County, Indiana, May 28, 1896

According to the previous announcement in the Herald of Truth a number of ministers met at the Nappanee Church in Elkhart Co., Ind., to hold Conference May 28, 1896.

After singing and prayer by Jacob Ringenburg of Tiskilwa, Ill., J. P. Smoker gave an address of welcome. Jonathan Kurtz was elected Moderator who chose David Morrell Asst. Moderator. D. D. Miller was elected Secretary, who chose D. J. Johns Asst. Secretary.

Bro. Kurtz explained that conference was not a new work, but that it was necessary even in the time of the apostles to hold conference because of difference of opinion on understanding, Acts 15. He then read I Cor. 3:1-17 and taught how we as individuals are to build upon this foundation (Christ). It is necessary to have first of all a regenerated heart and then follows the building by keeping the commandments, such as baptism, communion, foot washing, etc., and then observing such restrictions as not going to law, etc., I Cor. 6:1-8 non-swearing of oaths, Matt. 5:33, non-resistance, and being subject to higher powers.

Each minister in turn then gave a short address in which he endorsed the thoughts already presented and added other practical thoughts which are here omitted.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted by the laity present:

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the thoughts presented by the ministers in reference to unity, nonconformity to the world, nonresistance, and conformity to the will of God; and that we will as much as God gives us grace, stand by and help the ministry in upholding such doctrine.

After singing a hymn Conference adjourned for one hour.

Conference opened at 1:30 by singing followed by prayer by Noah Metzler.

Several questions were then read and discussed in the following order:

Ques. 1. Is it edifying for a home minister to take up much time in the services when a strange minister is present?

Ans. As a rule we deem it not advisable, but if the strange minister takes up only a short time it might be edifying.

Ques. 2. What is advisable to do with members of our church that stay away from council and communion from year to year; after they have been visited and admonished repeatedly?

Ans. Every effort should be put forth to make them see that they are not bearing fruit and therefore are dead branches that must be taken away. John 15:1, 2; Luke 13:6-9.

Ques. 3. As a separate people from the world and opposed to secret societies are we blameless before God according to Isaiah 52:11 and II Cor. 6:17 if we invite ministers to the pulpit who belong to secret societies?

Ans. According to II John 9, 10, "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed." Also Eph. 5:11, 12, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them, for it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." Also Ezek. 44:6-9, and James 5:12, we say no.

After prayer by J. Kurtz and singing Conference adjourned to meet next morning at 9 o'clock.

At 9 o'clock Conference opened by singing followed by scripture reading and prayer by David Morrell.

Ques. 4. What is implied in the qualifications of a minister as given by Paul to Timothy and Titus?

After a considerable discussion in which some pointed thoughts were brought out, it was decided that no answer be written out on this question at this place but is to be brought out later by a resolution.

Ques. 5. What method does this Conference advise to follow in ordaining a minister?

Ans. We advise that the brotherhood be admonished to earnest prayer, then cast their vote for a brother or brethren, after which the bishops and ministers present shall have the power to reject any of said brethren that have not the qualifications as given by Paul to Timothy and Titus. Then choose by lot or take the highest vote as the church may have agreed upon.

Conference was dismissed for one hour.

Conference opened by singing a hymn and offering a prayer. Next in order was miscellaneous business. On motion it was decided that J. S. Hartzler was to have charge of Pretty Prairie appointments for next year. The program for the Sunday School Conference was next read and accepted by the Conference. On

motion it was decided that the congregation at Barker St., Mich., shall be visited every four weeks by such of our ministers as may be suggested by the brethren J. F. Funk and J. S. Hartzler on their arrangements for that congregation.

J. F. Funk, J. S. Hartzler, and Jas. McGowen were appointed as a committee on resolutions. The address given by the committee on the General Conference was then read. On motion it was decided that we approve of the work as done by the committee, and endorse them in their future work. Next in order was the report of the home evangelist, D. J. Johns. D. D. Troyer was appointed home evangelist for the next year. The moderator then appointed E. A. Mast and Jas. McGowen delegates to the Conference to be held in Burean Co., Ill., next fall, and Jos. D. Miller as a delegate to the Ohio Conference. J. S. Hartzler was elected corresponding secretary.

Th following resolutions were then adopted:

Resolved, That Bro. D. J. Johns write an article on "The Qualifications of Ministers" in accordance with ideas advanced in the discussions of that subject by the Conference for publication in the Herald of Truth.

Resolved, That Bro. D. D. Miller write an article on "The prayer head covering of the Sisters" for publication in the Herald of Truth.

Resolved, That we ask our sister conferences to express themselves in regard to compiling a new Hymn and Tune book.

Resolved, That this Conference extend their sincere thanks to the brotherhood at Nappanee for their kindness and hospitality shown during this Conference session.

After closing prayer by Bro. J. F. Funk, Conference adjourned.

4 bishops and 12 ministers were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held in Howard County, Indiana, May 14, 1897

Conference opened by singing followed by prayer and an address by Benjamin Gerig.

Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was elected Moderator by ballot. Bro. Benjamin Gerig was chosen Asst. Moderator. C. Z. Yoder and Noah W. King were elected Secretaries.

The moderator in his address spoke briefly upon the importance of holding conference in our day and age as well as in the apostolic age. After reading a part of the fourth chapter of Ephesians he referred to the duties of bishops, ministers, and deacons, and the necessity of often conferring with one another in

regard to church work, and that they teach by example as well as by precept, tarrying at Jerusalem in prayer until filled with the Holy Ghost which is the best qualification of a minister; then followed an earnest entreaty to hold fast to the doctrine of Christ and His apostles, their commandments and restrictions long held dear by our forefathers. Then followed the testimonies of all the bishops and ministers, all in harmony with the above. Many precious truths were then presented and we believe many resolutions were made to live out these Christian principles in obedience to our Father's holy will, to the honor and glory of our Redeemer. The laity also manifested their unity of faith and doctrine as presented by the ministers, by rising to their feet.

Conference then closed with singing.

Afternoon session was opened by singing, followed by the reading of Col. 3 by D. J. Johns followed by prayer. The following questions were then discussed:

Ques. 1. When a member becomes financially involved is it right to take advantage of the laws of the state?

Ans. It is the sense of this Conference according to Matt. 7:12 and Rom. 8:13 that such member should give up all and not retain what the law allows.

Ques. 2. Should a person who is not willing to make restitution be taken into church fellowship?

Ans. No. Luke 19:1-10; Matt. 18:6.

Ques. 3. If a member withdraws from church fellowship is it necessary to publicly announce it to the church?

Ans. It should be publicly announced that all may know where such stand.

Ques. 4. How deal with persons who have withdrawn from the Church?

Ans. Ascertain the cause, and deal with them according in the spirit of the Gospel.

Ques. 5. Would this Conference favor a yearly ministerial meeting?

Ans. We favor such a meeting to the promotion of Christ's Kingdom.

Ques. 6. Should a member engage in any occupation which requires him to perform manual labor on Sunday, the same as any other day, for a worldly compensation?

Ans. We deem it inconsistent with the sacred Scriptures and detrimental to the Christian religion. We shall be a light to the world and "seek first the kingdom of God" and inasmuch as God sanctified the Sabbath day thereby commemorating the completeness of the creation, Gen. 2:3 enjoined it upon men, Ex. 20:8, so shall we observe the Lord's day in commemoration of the perfec-

tion of the great atonement. Matt. 28:1; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10.

Ques. 7. Is it in harmony with the teaching of Christ and His apostles that we as a nonresistant people who teach nonconformity to the world, bring up our children in the fashions of the world?

Ans. Since our children are an heritage of the Lord, Psalm 127:3 and the future prosperity of the church depends upon the rising generation and since the Bible requires us to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, Eph. 6:4, Prov. 22:6, therefore it is not in harmony with God's Word.

The above queries were discussed only in the spirit of meekness, and charity toward all, interspersed with singing, and at the opening and closing of the session's devotional exercises. Last in order was miscellaneous business.

On motion it was decided that J. S. Hartzler shall retain charge of Pretty Prairie, Ind., congregation.

On motion it was decided that D. J. Johns and J. S. Coffman shall take charge of Barker Street, Mich., congregation. Home evangelist, D. D. Miller, elected by ballot. Jonathan Kurtz, corresponding secretary for the next year.

The Sunday School Conference program was presented for consideration and was approved.

Jonathan Kurtz was chosen delegate for the next western Conference. J. D. Miller and D. J. Johns delegates for the Ohio Conference.

The General Conference Committee report was presented by D. J. Johns.

A resolution was passed that C. Z. Yoder write an article for the Herald of Truth on "Desecration of the Lord's Day."

Agreed that this Conference district assist in paying part of the unpaid expenses of building the church house at Barker Street, Mich.

Thus the Conference closed on May 15th, very satisfactorily to those present.

Although the number of ministers present was smaller than usual, yet all apparently enjoyed themselves well for which we give God the praise.

5 bishops, 3 ministers, and 2 deacons were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Maple Grove Church, Topeka, Indiana,
June 2, 3, 1898

Conference opened with singing, an exhortation, scripture lesson, and prayer by C. K. Yoder. Jonathan Kurtz gave a short address of welcome after which D. J. Johns was elected Moderator who chose D. D. Miller as his assistant. J. S. Hartzler was elected Secretary, and S. F. Coffman assistant.

J. H. McGowen read I Cor. 12 and preached the conference sermon.

There are some who said, though not raised in this faith for the record of the forefathers, which gives us the true principles of the record of Christ: I am glad that there are still some who are willing to carry that Word to the rising generation. We have been taught by the record of God that He has not only created all things but that even his creation shows his handiwork.

Our motive in conference as well as everything else, should be to glorify Him and to become more unified in the faith. In order to do this we must first get into proper relation with Him, for man has fallen under the condemnation of sin. Regeneration, the new birth, changed heart, consecrated body are necessary to the ordinance of baptism.

Through the death of Christ we have the atonement and the forgiveness of sins. The visible church, the body of believers in Christ, have the testimony of the spirit that they are God's children. Ordinances, water baptism, communion, and feet washing are ordinances of God's house.

We are not to build upon them, but upon the grace of God We are God's children and therefore do these things. The law is "do" and by that "be" a child of God.

Matrimony is an ordinance of God, sacred in His sight. There is a danger of Christians being drawn out into the world by unholy alliance with unbelievers. Paul says "Marry in the Lord."

In regard to civil government, I would say the laws of the land are to protect the good and to punish the evil. There are great inducements thrown out to lead people into the world and into office. We should keep ourselves free from them by the grace of God.

Nonresistance, nonconformity, nonswearing of oaths, the ban, the holy kiss, the prayer head covering and a number of other subjects which I have not time to discuss at present should be taught from the pulpit with more zeal and earnestness than they are in many cases, for we are living in dangerous times.

After the bishops, ministers, and deacons had expressed themselves in unity, the congregation gave expression to the same unity by rising.

The forenoon session was closed by singing the Doxology.

Conference convened at 1:15 P. M. After singing several hymns, Benjamin Gerig offered a few remarks and led in prayer. A number of questions which had been prepared for the conference were read, after which the several questions were discussed:

Ques. 1. Does this Conference favor more aggressive work in the evangelistic and mission field, and the ordination of ministers for this work? If so how shall the church secure the needed workers?

Ans. Resolved, That this Conference does favor more aggressive, evangelistic and mission work at home and abroad and advises that qualified persons should be ordained for such work; and that we teach the congregation the spirit of Christ toward the lost souls, pray earnestly the Lord to send laborers, and separate those to the work whom the Holy Spirit has called.

Ques. 2. Is it consistent for us to raise thousands of dollars to support the India orphans, who are in the care of missions of other societies; while our own Orphans' Home is not properly supported and our other church institutions are in great need of financial help?

Ans. We believe that it is consistent to send to India as much money as we now do, inasmuch as the money is not used to support the other societies, and these children are to be placed under a Mennonite Mission as soon as one is established. But it is not consistent to neglect our home institutions.

After singing a hymn Conference adjourned to meet next day at 9 o'clock.

The evening service was conducted by John Smith, Peter Shertz, and Noah Metzler.

Friday morning J. S. Coffman opened the meeting by scripture reading and prayer. Ques. 3 was read and discussed at considerable length. A motion to table the question was lost. The question was then changed to read as follows:

Ques. 3. Is it consistent to establish missions conjointly with those who do not uphold the principle which we advocate?

Ans. Resolved, That it is inconsistent for us to compromise the doctrines of Christ by establishing such missions.

Ques. 4. Is it advisable for our ministers to fill appointments for ministers of denominations who sanction secret orders, conformity to the world, etc.?

Ans. True ministers are instant in season, and out of season,

and should preach the Word wherever they have opportunity, presenting the whole truth of the Gospel. It would however be detrimental to the doctrines of the Bible as we interpret them to have our ministers preach under the circumstances of this question if they should thereby labor in other churches as though they were in full fellowship with them. Good judgment should be exercised in this matter. Acts 16:5, 6, 9; II Tim. 4:2.

Ques. 5. What is the relation of the church to the bishop and what authority has each over the other?

Ans. The bishop is to feed the flock, be an example in all things, have the oversight of the church and be one of the body. The church should stand by their bishops, obey them in all things as long as the bishops act in accordance with the Word of God. No one, whether bishop, minister or deacon or lay member has individual authority over another, but the authority is vested in the church collectively. Each should look after the spiritual welfare of the whole church.

The Sunday School Conference program was then read and approved, after which Conference adjourned till one o'clock.

After the congregation had sung a hymn and prayer was offered by Samuel Yoder, Conference proceeded to discuss Ques. 6.

Ques. 6. What is the teaching of the scriptures and the position of this Conference with regard to secular offices?

Ans. We are to press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus who said my kingdom is not of this world; also render to Caesar the things which are Caesar's. The apostle said, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers;" also, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness;" also, "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord."

From the above and other texts this Conference holds that we should keep ourselves free from such offices where the officer is required to administer oaths, sue at law, etc.

General business was next in order.

D. D. Miller gave a short report of his work as state evangelist. J. P. Smoker was appointed to that position for the next year. D. D. Miller was appointed to preach the next conference sermon.

D. D. Miller, J. S. Hartzler, and J. H. McGowen were appointed to arrange questions for the next conference. Andrew Hostetler was appointed corresponding secretary.

On motion the moderator was asked to appoint a committee of two who are to work conjointly with a committee appointed by the Mennonites which committee is to confer with the governor of the state regarding exemption from military duty on ac-

count of the Gospel principles of nonresistance to which we hold. J. S. Hartzler and D. D. Miller were appointed.

D. J. Johns was appointed a delegate to the western Conference to be held in October.

The following resolutions were then passed:

Resolved, That we the people of the Maple Grove congregation, hereby offer a vote of thanks to the ministers, brethren and sisters from abroad for their presence and help in this conference.

Resolved, That we as ministers, brethren and sisters from abroad hereby heartily thank the congregation of this place for the kind reception and the hospitality shown us during this conference session.

After a few touching farewell remarks by several of the brethren Bro. J. S. Hartzler offered the closing prayer.

Many spoke of this conference as one of the most edifying they had ever attended.

5 bishops, 14 ministers, and 4 deacons were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Forks Church, June 1, 2, 1899

After singing a number of hymns, Bro. J. P. Smoker read Rom. 12 and led in prayer.

Organization: Moderator, Jonathan Kurtz; Asst. Moderator, J. C. Yoder; Secretaries, J. S. Hartzler and D. D. Miller.

Bro. D. D. Miller preached the conference sermon, taking for a text Acts 1:8. The need of the church to-day is power. The word was to the apostles that after they had received the power they should be witnesses for Him throughout Jerusalem, Judea, etc. What would those poor men have accomplished in converting the world if they had not had power? From that day to this those who accomplished a great work were filled with this power. They were witnesses.

The apostles were weak but when the power came upon them people were converted by the thousands. It is when we feel our weakness that God can fill us with this power. When filled with this power we will hold up Christ, baptism, communion, prayer head covering, and any of those outward works should be the result of power of the Holy Ghost. If the ordinances and restrictions are not the first essentials why are they given? They are to carry the mind back to Jesus, His suffering, and our relation to Him. Why do we get so cold? It is because we have left, or have never been in, the channel that God would have us be.

Ordinances are reminders that are neglected by many of us, and the result is that we get still farther away. We should learn by doing; it is a principle in the world and was exemplified by Christ. When we count the strength of the heathen, for how much do we count Christ, the Holy Ghost and our Father? These are the powers that make even one of the weakest of us a majority over the world.

My ministering brethren, whether any other question is decided at this conference let this one question be decided for each one of us, "Am I filled with power as the result of the baptism of the Holy Ghost?" The testimony of the bishops, ministers and deacons present was given. For want of time not all responded before the noon hour.

After some announcements, Conference adjourned.

After singing several hymns Bro. John Smith read the 23rd Psalm and led in prayer.

The moderator appointed two secretaries and Bro. John Smith as committee on resolutions. As not all the ministers had given testimony in the morning these were continued. The brotherhood then manifested their willingness to uphold these doctrines by a rising vote.

These questions were then read and the answers adopted as given below.

Ques. 1. When members move from one district to another should the ministers of the district into which they have moved be notified of their standing? How shall such members be received?

Ans. Inasmuch as it would assist the ministry in many ways and would often be of great benefit to the one who has thus moved, we advise that such notice be given even when a certificate is taken along by the member in question. Generally we advise that such be received by certificate of membership only.

Ques. 2. What do we owe to our brethren at a distance who are not in full accord with us and are at variance among themselves?

Ans. It is our duty to go and preach the power of the Holy Ghost; lift up Christ and show that such variance has not place in the child of God. Much might also be done by private visiting.

Ques. 3. What does the ordinance of the Holy Kiss signify?

As this question was decided at conference four years ago, reference was made to the answer then adopted.

Bro. Samuel Yoder led in the closing prayer and after singing Conference adjourned.

Conference was opened by Bro. J. C. Yoder who read Heb. 8:20-39, and led in prayer after which the discussion of questions was resumed.

Ques. 4. What is the effect of Christians forming a partnership with unbelievers for the transaction of business?

Ans. The effect is generally that the Christian in such partnership becomes weaker in his spiritual work and often obliged to do things that are absolutely wrong, therefore we urge our people to avoid such partnership. II Cor. 6:14; I Thes. 5:22.

Ques. 5. What is the sentiment of this Conference in regard to ministers organizing and locating colonies?

Ans. Since the high calling of a minister is not for financial gain, and since syndicates throw out great inducements for such ministers, and since many times the colonies prove failures and the people thus induced to locate in such colonies lose their means, and the ministers lose their influence, therefore we advise that our ministry be about our "Father's business," rather than seek financial gain. Ex. 23:8; Deut. 16:19.

Ques. 6. How can we assist our brethren who are financially poor and spiritually indifferent?

Ans. We may often aid such by being humble ourselves, thus giving them a welcome among us; by giving them good advice; by helping them to help themselves. It is not always best to give them money but to aid them to earn a livelihood; keep them in touch with the church as much as possible by visiting, encouraging them, and admonishing them; also by aiding them to secure a dwelling place where they have church privileges.

As question was not finished it was left until after the noon hour.

After singing Conference was dismissed.

After singing a number of hymns Bro. Yost Miller read II Tim. 4:1-8 and led in prayer. Question 7 was tabled.

Bro. J. S. Hartzler was apopinted to care for the Pretty Prairie congregation.

Bro. J. P. Smoker, district evangelist for the past year reported that not much work had been done. Bro. J. Kurtz was appointed district evangelist for the ensuing year.

The brethren D. J. Johns and J. S. Coffman were appointed a committee to supply the Barker Street congregation.

The Sunday School Conference program was read and approved. J. P. Smoker was appointed a delegate to Western Conference.

Emanuel Mast of Kokomo, Ind., was appointed to preach conference sermon next year.

J. P. Smoker was elected corresponding secretary.

The following resolutions were read and adopted:

Resolved, That this Conference express itself as being strongly opposed to life insurance in any form.

Whereas many of our young people are lost to the church on account of having attended schools where our nonresistant, nonconformed faith is ignored, and, whereas the Elkhart Institute is owned and conducted entirely by our own people, therefore be it,

Resolved, That we advise our young people who want to attend an institution of higher learning to attend the Elkhart Institute and that we recommend the Institute to our people as being worthy of their support as long as it is in harmony with our faith.

Resolved, That this Conference endorse the work of the General Conference, 1st, in regard to its effort to uphold the nonresistant, nonconformed doctrine, 2nd, in appointing a committee to investigate all church institutions, 3rd, in its general rulings.

Whereas, there is a small congregation in Logan and Champaign Counties, Ohio, which has been received as a part of this Conference, and whereas the Ohio and Pennsylvania Conference has since been organized, therefore be it,

Resolved, That we advise that an effort be made to effect a reconciliation between said congregation and said conference.

A collection was taken for Bro. A. Hershberger who had the misfortune of loss by fire.

On motion Bros. J. Kurtz and J. Yoder were appointed a committee to see what could be done to form a reconciliation between the so-called Indiana church in Logan Co., Ohio and the Ohio and Pennsylvania Conference.

Bro. D. J. Johns was elected committeeman to General Conference.

On motion it was decided that three delegates for General Conference be appointed by the three bishops present. Those appointed were: J. McGowen, J. D. Miller, and J. S. Hartzler.

A number of short talks were then given which were very interesting.

After singing and prayer Conference adjourned.

7 bishops, 14 ministers, and 4 deacons were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Egli Church, Linn Grove, Adams County, Indiana, June 7, 8, 1900

Conference opened with singing. After a short address by J. P. Smoker and prayer, J. P. Smoker was elected Moderator and Jonathan Kurtz Asst. Henry Culp and John Horsch were elected Secretaries.

E. A. Mast read I Cor. 3:11 and preached the conference sermon.

Jesus is the chief corner stone, other foundation can no man lay. We should not be one for Paul, one for Apollos, but for the only chief corner stone, which is Christ Jesus.

The dangers we are in are many. We should be on our guard for Satan comes as an angel of light.

The labor is so easy if we only give ourselves wholly in God's hand.

It is sorrowful that so little is accomplished when there is so much to do.

Repentance is the first thing needful for us to preach.

Sorrow for sins and abstaining therefrom is not all of repentance, but also restitution. Unless we are concerned about the condition of the church, or the spiritual condition of our children we will become lukewarm and will not build upon the true corner stone.

What can we expect will become of our children unless we teach them the ways of the Lord? What will it help us if we make a great mark in the world, and will have to see the eternal destruction of our children? I thank the Lord that I cannot trust in my own knowledge and education, but that I can put my whole trust in the chief corner stone, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Mast was followed by the moderator who in a few earnest remarks explained the object of conference. We should not put down our stakes so deep that we cannot again pull them up unless we put them down with the Word of God.

Asst. Moderator followed with a few very appropriate remarks.

Bro. Plank: I would like to show by my actions that I am still willing to stand fast to what I have promised.

Bro. Shank: What is most necessary for us to learn? Is it not to learn to know ourselves? He earnestly admonished us to pray for ministers.

Rediger, of Illinois: Take heed how you build upon that rock.

After the bishops, ministers, and deacons had expressed themselves in unity, the congregation gave expression to the same unity by rising, after which Conference adjourned.

Afternoon session opened at 1:30 by singing and prayer by Bro. Sproll. Several questions were then read and answers adopted in the following order:

Ques. 1. Why are conferences upbuilding to the Church?

Ans. A conference is the medium of bringing the congregations into a closer union, and of gaining more spiritual power, so that we can the more successfully combat with the evils which are continually confronting the church.

Ques. 2. What are the great needs of the Church at the present time?

Ans. More humility and spirituality. Ministers who have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, who are honest workers and can lead the congregation into deeper spirituality.

Ques. 3. What are some of the best evidences of discipleship with Christ?

Ans. The witness of the Spirit. Rom. 8:16. A Christlike life. Fruits of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9. Love to enemies. Matt. 5:44.

After singing a hymn Conference adjourned to meet next day at 9 o'clock.

Conference met at 9 A. M. Opening services were conducted by Bro. McGowen, after which some miscellaneous work was taken up and disposed of.

Bro. J. Miller was given charge of Pretty Prairie congregation. Bros. Noah Metzler and Joe Miller were appointed as a committee to care for the Barker Street congregation.

State evangelist reported and report accepted. Bro. Emanuel Mast was appointed state evangelist for the next year. Berne congregation given into charge of Bishop E. A. Mast.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, the Chicago Mission has been held in a building rented for that purpose, and, whereas, there is constant expense connected therewith, and, whereas, the Mennonite Evangelizing and Benevolent Board has purchased a building in which to continue the work of the Mission, therefore be it,

Resolved, That we give said Board our hearty coöperation and encouragement in their effort to provide a permanent place for the Mission.

Ques. 4. What is conformity to the world?

Ans. It consists in worldliness (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:22), manifesting itself in daily walk and conversation, in attire and manner of living (I Pet. 3:3; I Tim. 2:9, 10), in love of money (I Tim. 6:10), in business connections with Godless persons, in indulging in worldly pleasures and amusements. It is the manifestation of the love of the world and the evidence of a lack of love to Christ.

Whereas, we see the necessity of a home evangelist and sending of delegate to the eastern and western Conferences, and, whereas, it is also necessary to collect money from the different churches to pay the expense of the same; therefore be it,

Resolved, That this Conference appoint a secretary and treasurer to receive funds from this conference district and to keep account of the same.

Bro. Silas Yoder was appointed Secretary and Treasurer.

Resolved, That this Conference would consider it best for the

church to own and control the publishing of the church literature, papers, books, etc.

Resolved, That this Conference encourage the mission work at home and abroad and would urge the hearty support of this work.

A collection of $27.73 was taken for the suffering people in India.

D. J. Johns was elected delegate to the western Conference. Joe Miller was elected delegate to the Eastern Conference.

Bro. D. D. Troyer was chosen corresponding secretary.

Ques. 5. Would it not be best in preaching on any point of doctrine to give scriptural proof to establish the same without referring to what others believe and teach?

Ans. Yes. II Tim. 2:15; Titus 2:1; II Tim. 4:2.

Sunday School Conference program read and approved.

Resolved, That the brethren and sisters from abroad with the brethren and sisters at this place, return our heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters of this congregation for the use and privilege of their place of worship during this conference session, wishing them God's blessing in spiritual and temporal things.

Resolved, That we from abroad extend our heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters and friends of this place for their kindness and hospitality toward us while in their midst.

After these resolutions of thanks were adopted a few very appropriate remarks were made by Bro. J. H. McGowen followed by Bro. Daniel Yoder of the home congregation, heartily thanking those from abroad for their presence.

Closing remarks and prayer by Bro. Sproll, Conference adjourned.

7 bishops, 6 ministers, and 2 deacons were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Clinton Church, Elkhart County, Indiana, May 23, 24, 1901

After singing several hymns J. P. Smoker opened the meeting by reading a scripture and gave a few remarks after which E. A. Mast led in prayer.

Organization: The organization resulted in the election of Jonathan Kurtz as Moderator; D. J. Johns, Asst. Moderator; Henry Culp and D. D. Miller, Secretaries.

J. H. McGowen preached the conference sermon using for a text I Cor. 3:11. Thoughts presented were: It is necessary to see whether we are building upon the right foundation. All founda-

tions ever built by man fell. Christ is the sure foundation. Help in building may be attained by united prayer, working in harmony, and by the promptings of the Holy Spirit. If this be done the conference will be a success.

Following the sermon the moderator gave the following remarks: Faithfulness an essential to successful building. Each person should be faithful to his calling. It is necessary to practice and not only teach.

The Bishops place. According to scripture and former customs of the church there should be a bishop in each congregation as far as practical. There is danger of self-exaltation for a bishop to have charge over too many congregations. It is necesary for a bishop as well as for a minister to know his place. We should be very careful that we do not build too much upon ourselves as bishops.

D. J. Johns: As bishops we should be very careful to build with such material that will stand the test of the fire. Build not upon Amishism, Mennonitism, nor upon a bishop, for they will not stand, but let us build only upon Christ Jesus, that our foundation may not fall before the judgment bar of God.

After each bishop, minister, and deacon (as he was called upon) declared himself in harmony with what had been said, Conference adjourned for refreshments.

May 23, 1:00 P. M. After singing and prayer, D. D. Troyer, A. H. Leaman, and J. H. McGowen were appointed a committee on resolutions. The following questions were then discussed:

Ques. 1. Shall all members be allowed to take part in the discussion of conference questions?

Ans. After considerable discussion of this question, it was tabled.

Ques. 2. What method can be used to arouse disinterested church members whom preaching does not seem to affect?

Ans. Indifferent church members may sometimes be reached—(1) By more spiritual preaching; (2) By personal work in visiting by the ministry and laity; (3) By special seasons of prayer with them and especially by giving them applicable scripture texts.

Ques. 3. Is a minister justified in administering baptism or the communion of bread and wine to a person adorned with gold or costly array?

Ans. Circumstances should be considered, but in general we consider such administration to persons wearing such gold or apparel in violation of I Pet. 3:3 and I Tim. 2:9, not justifiable.

Conference adjourned to meet again the next morning.

May 24, 9 A. M. Conference opened by singing. Bro. Simon Hedrick led in prayer.

Ques. 4. Is it wise for a church to elect Sunday school officers by the whole church?

After many of the ministers present took part in discussion of the question, plainly showing by past experience and scripture texts the inconsistency of uniting with the world to do the work of the Lord the following was unanimously adopted.

Ans. This Conference deems it unwise for a church to elect Sunday school officers by the whole school and readopts the answer to Ques. 4 of 1892 Conference.

Ques. 5. Does this Conference advise the ordination of a minister in the Hawpatch congregation and also in the Forks congregation?

Ans. Yes.

Ques. 6. What is the duty of the church toward those of its members who habitually for a long time neglect their church duties but who do not live in open sin?

In discussing this question the opinion seemed to prevail, that habitually neglecting church duties is open sin. But the following answer was adopted.

Ans. Every effort to restore such an one should be put forth, remembering that Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost, Luke 19:10, observing the apostle Paul's admonition as given in Gal. 6:1.

The Sunday School Conference program was considered and approved with the understanding that all speakers shall be in the order of the church.

In discussing this program mention was made of the unnecessary expenses and burden upon the congregation where conference is held.

All seemed to be in favor of a basket dinner at both Sunday School and Church Conferences and not consisting of dainties but of plain food, furnished not only by the congregation where such conference is held but by all attendants as far as not too inconvenient to do so.

After prayer by Daniel Wise miscellaneous work was done.

Noah Metzler and D. J. Johns were appointed to look after the Barker Street congregation for one year.

Jonathan Kurtz was appointed to look after the Pretty Prairie Congregation for one year.

Home evangelist reported. Report accepted.

Jonathan Kurtz was appointed delegate to Pennsylvania Conference in place of Joseph D. Miller deceased.

Resolutions

1. Resolution to elect the home evangelist by ballot. Adopted. D. D. Miller was elected.

2. Resolved, That this Conference tender our heartfelt sympathy to the wives and children of Bros. Nobertius Sproll and Joseph D. Miller deceased.

D. J. Johns was elected by ballot delegate to western Conference.

Silas Yoder reëlected Sec.-treas. to receive and keep account of Conference funds.

J. H. McGowen elected corresponding secretary.

D. J. Johns appointed to preach the next conference sermon.

After prayer by Noah Metzler Conference adjourned with a general good feeling, to meet at Nappanee, Indiana, in 1902.

We can all say it was good for us to be here. God be praised.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at Nappanee, Indiana, May 29, 1902

Conference was called to order by Bro. Jonathan Kurtz, who was moderator last year. Bro. Joseph Birkey read John 13:33-36 and led in prayer.

Organization resulted in the election of D. D. Miller, Moderator; Benjamin Gerig, Asst. Moderator; J. S. Hartzler and Isaac Mast Secretaries.

Bro. D. J. Johns preached the conference sermon from Isa. 28:14-18. This foundation is Christ, as is shown by the Savior and Paul. Menno Simons, Jacob Ammon and the eighteen articles of faith, good as they are, should never be placed before Christ. The true foundation should long ago (by the instrumentality of the church) have annulled the things condemned by the text. Christ as a head, has a church and He expects that church to glorify Him; to observe His commandments by being a united brotherhood. Here an organization is implied, and forbearance is a necessary principle. Many are not willing to comply with such organization. They want to hold the name Christian, but they cannot comply with Matt. 18:17, and a number of other scriptures. Closer unity, Christ love, and mercy are things that should be held up more forcibly in the church. Christ gave that New Commandment, "That ye love one another as I have loved you," in which is involved even more than that given in the Law which Christ referred to in Matt. 12:30, 31. Every child of God wants to become more God-like. Such cannot follow the things of this world. Christ is found in the Word of God. He is here shown to be separate from the world. What we do we should do as unto the Lord.

The bishops, ministers and deacons present gave earnest testi-

mony to the thoughts presented, and declared that they were willing to seek the upbuilding of the church as taught by Christ and the Apostles.

On motion a committee of three was appointed to arrange the questions for conference. The brethren Hartzler, Johns and McGowen were appointed.

After prayer led by Bro. A. F. Yoder Conference adjourned until one o'clock.

The afternoon services were opened by Bro. Kennagy reading the Twenty-third Psalm and leading in prayer.

For want of time the ministers did not all testify to the conference sermon before the noon hour. Time for that was given now. Brethren and sisters manifested their unity with the thoughts in the general outline and teaching of the forenoon by a rising vote.

The following questions were then discussed:

Ques. 1. Where there is a congregation without a bishop, whose duty is it to look after the welfare of the congregation?

Ans. Inasmuch as we believe that it is the teaching of scripture that every church should be under the care of some bishop, we believe that such congregation should choose some bishop who should have the continual oversight of the church. Where the congregation will not act, we believe the Conference should appoint a bishop to have such care. Titus 1:5; Eph. 4:11, 12; Acts 14:23; II Tim. 2:2.

Ques. 2. Whose duty is it to put into practice the answer to Question 5 of the Conference of 1891, Question 9 of 1892 and the Questions of 1896?

Ans. Those who have the welfare of the Church at heart and especially those who are appointed to that work should do all they can to carry out the first and second, but the third is the duty of the whole congregation. John 10:2; Gal. 6:1; John 15:1-8; I Cor. 5:4-7.

Ques. 3. Is it upbuilding to the Church for the sisters to keep on their hoods or bonnets during worship?

Ans. Since it is the plain teaching of the scriptures that a special prayer head covering should be worn in worship (I Cor. 11:1-16) this Conference urges that the command be more strictly obeyed, and while there may be times when hoods and bonnets might be worn in addition, generally speaking it is not upbuilding, but lessens the influence of the Church and particularly of those who wear the special covering.

After the announcements for the evening and the next day, the meeting was closed with prayer by Bro. D. J. Johns.

The evening services were conducted by the brethren D. D. Troyer, Joseph Kennagy, and A. F. Yoder.

May the 30th.

Services were opened by J. S. Lehman by reading the 14th Psalm and leading in prayer.

Ques. 4. Are our churches fully organized without deacons? Acts 6.

Ans. This question is referred to Question 9 and its answer of Conference of 1893.

Ques. 5. What is the Bible teaching on the "Unequal Yoke?" How far does it reach? What are the evil results of the violation of this command?

Ans. (II Cor. 6:14; Psalm 1:1) This applies to marriage, associates, business and fraternities. The Christian who is unequally with the unbeliever in any of the above relations violates the Word of God at the very outset and if the individual is not led away entirely thereby, very materially lessens his or her power for good.

The forenoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. Benjamin Gerig.

At 1 o'clock P. M. Conference was opened with prayer and the reading of Eph. 4:1-15 by Bro. J. S. Hartzler.

Ques. 6. We preach and teach Matt. 9:37, 38, but how can we proceed more effectually?

Ans. By fasting and praying more earnestly for God's guidance with willing hearts and minds to be used according to His will. Acts 12:2, 3.

On motion the brethren D. J. Johns and Noah Metzler were appointed to prepare a list of appointments for meetings at Barker Street every four weeks.

On motion D. J. Johns was given oversight of the Pretty Prairie congregation.

On motion E. A. Mast was elected corresponding secretary.

D. D. Miller, district evangelist, gave a report of the evangelistic work done in the district and of the hindrances that came in the way through sickness, etc.

D. D. Miller was elected by ballot as district evangelist for the next year.

Jonathan Kurtz was elected chairman of a committee to present to the Ohio Conference the matter relating to a congregation in Logan Co., Ohio that was formerly connected with the Indiana Conference, and urge that some action be taken by the Ohio Conference in their behalf.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Bro. Silas Yoder was reëlected for the next year.

Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was appointed to preach the conference sermon next year.

Bro. E. A. Mast of Howard Co., was elected as a delegate to the Western Conference to be held at Milford, Neb.

On motion the three bishops present were authorized each to appoint one delegate to the General Conference to be held at Elida, Ohio. The brethren D. D. Miller, Eli Bontrager, and A. J. Hostetler were appointed as delegates.

Bro. D. J. Johns was appointed to act on the committee for arranging conference work for the General Conference. He was also elected as delegate to the Ohio and Pennsylvania Conferences for 1903.

Closing remarks and prayer by Bro. Jonathan Kurtz.

Bishops, Ministers, and Deacons present, 23.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held in the Howard-Miami Church, June 11, 12, 1903

Conference was opened at 10 A. M. by D. D. Miller.

D. J. Johns was elected Moderator; John Zook of Talmadge, Pa., Asst.; J. F. Slabaugh and Henry Culp, Secretaries.

Bro. Kurtz who was to preach the conference sermon not being present, Bro. Zook of Pennsylvania was called upon. He spoke briefly from I Cor. 13:13 dwelling mostly upon the necessity of being filled with love which emanates from God alone.

Short remarks were made by all the ministers present, as they were called upon.

Closing remarks by the moderator, who said that divine love in the soul not only unites, but it also separates. That ministers should be so completely filled with the love of God, that they would separate themselves from the world and its allurements, and be a light to the world.

Bro. Miller spoke of the necessity of looking for danger ahead, and not wait to sound the alarm till many souls are hurled to perdition.

The afternoon session was opened at one o'clock by D. D. Troyer after which the following questions were discussed:

Ques. 1. Who shall fill our pulpits in our regular services?

Ans. Only such regularly ordained ministers who we have reason to believe will truly feed the flock.

Ques. 2. What are the effects of outward appearance on self and upon others?

Ans. If our appearance is in accordance with the Word of

God, it has a tendency to strengthen and protect ourselves and lead others to Christ. If otherwise it will weaken and expose us to the enemy and mislead others.

Afternoon session closed at 4 P. M. Evening services by Bro. Ressler on conditions and needs of India.

Next day Conference opened at 9 A. M. by Bro. Zook.

Ques. 3. What is the tenor of the scriptures concerning the attitude of our brethren toward those who have been admonished and yet remain disobedient and make no restitution?

Ans. When a brother has been admonished and yet remains disobedient, we should deal with him according to Matt. 18:17. Count him not as an enemy but admonish him as a brother. II Thes. 3:14, 15; Gal. 6:1.

Ques. 4. What effect has the attending of ball games, street fairs, social parties, Sunday excursions, and all similar modern amusements upon the spiritual life of a Christian?

Ans. It robs the Christian of his spiritual life, and has a tendency to lead others into sin because of his inconsistent living. Rom. 2:17-29.

At 1 P. M. miscellaneous business was taken up.

Barker Street congregation arrangements given in charge of D. D. Miller and Yost Miller.

Pretty Prairie to have services every eight weeks and given in charge of A. J. Hochstetler.

Middlebury asked for arrangements for church services. Referred to Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Fall Conference.

Delegate to Fall Conference, D. J. Johns. Delegate to Western Conference, Jonathan Kurtz.

State evangelist's report accepted. D. D. Troyer elected state evangelist for year.

J. D. Zook elected director of Charitable Homes.

Jonathan Kurtz, corresponding secretary. Silas Yoder re-elected conference treasurer.

Sunday School Conference program considered and approved.

Next conference sermon to be preached by D. J. Johns.

A collection of $32.50 was taken up for India Missions.

Conference adjourned at 4 P. M. to meet in the spring of 1904 at the Maple Grove Church, Topeka, Ind.

12 ministers were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Maple Grove Church near Topeka,

Indiana, June 2 and 3, 1904

Conference was held June 2 and 3, 1904, at the Maple Grove Mennonite Church near Topeka, Ind. After singing several hymns Bro. Eli Stofer read I Cor. 3:9-23 and led in prayer.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Moderator, D. J. Johns; Jonathan Kurtz, Asst. Moderator; D. D. Miller, Secretary; J. S. Hartzler Asst. Secretary; J. H. Mast, Treasurer.

After a few introductory remarks by the moderator the secretary read the last year's report and with a few corrections was approved.

A motion was made and passed inviting our brother ministers who are here from other conference districts to take part in all the work of the conference same as the home ministers.

Bro. Eli Stofer then preached the conference sermon from Isaiah 28:16. The foundation though laid more than nineteen hundred years ago is standing yet. The future of the church depends upon its present action. If all were filled with the Holy Ghost we would not need so much church discipline and so many conference decisions.

After the bishops, ministers, and deacons answered in a few words of admonition and the congregation expressed their willingness to aid in furthering the cause of Christ, J. S. Hartzler led in prayer for the forenoon session.

Afternoon session was opened at 1:30 by reading and prayer. The following resolutions and questions were then discussed and acted upon.

Ques. 1. Is a congregation organized according to scripture without a regularly ordained bishop and deacon?

Ans. According to Acts 14:23 and Titus 1:5 we believe that in order to be organized on a scriptural basis, there should be a bishop and such other helpers as the church may need in every church. Should any congregation fail to have any one who has the scriptural qualifications, then an effort should be made to ordain one who is scripturally qualified from some other congregation and sent to the needy one.

Ques. 2. What does this Conference suggest (a) In regard to the number of ministers as compared to the work to be done, (b) As to the means used to gather in the lost souls, (c) As to the effort made to build up weak and new congregations.

Ans. We believe that the number of ministers is entirely inadequate to do the necessary work, therefore each congregation in which there are brethren, having the necessary qualifications should ordain them and send them out into the work. In order to have power with men we must have power with God. Hence the workers need to be fully consecrated, spending much time in prayer. They need to be earnest personal workers coming in direct touch with the fallen. Workers should be encouraged to go to places where opportunities for work are open and our congregations should be watchful for such work. This would inspire the home church to be more prayerful and be a means of deeper spirituality.

Ques. 3. What are the effects of having teachers in the Sunday school, who are adorned with gold rings and so forth, or addicted to tobacco or any other bad habit?

Ans. Since such adornment and filthiness is not in harmony with the tenor of the Scripture (I Tim. 2:9; II Cor. 7:1; Jas. 1: 21; I Pet. 3:3) and since the stream rises no higher than its fountain, such teachers lose their own power and influence and other precious souls are misled by them.

The afternoon closed with prayer by Bro. Jacob Gerig.

The evening services consisted of queries, song service, prayer and a Gospel sermon.

Friday morning at 9 o'clock Conference met again. Bishop Jno. Schmidt read a scripture lesson and led in prayer.

Ques. 4. Would it be advisable for this Conference to issue certificates of ordination to the ministers?

Ans. As there are circumstances when such certificates would be an advantage, we believe that they should be issued. A form was presented and adopted.

Ques. 5. What means would you suggest to create a greater interest in the Young People's Meeting or Bible Reading where the majority of the members are not enough interested to appreciate their opportunities?

Ans. (a) Much prayer for a revival in the membership.

(b) Assign work to as many members as possible.

(c) Ministers should urge the brotherhood to be active in the services.

(d) Active and talented workers should encourage those not so talented.

(e) Make the meeting very deeply spiritual.

(f) Let the older people understand that they are as responsible for the work as the younger people.

(g) Vary the exercises, but always keep the spiritual part foremost.

(h) Live close to God and His Word.

(i) Always have it under the control of the church.

The program for the Sunday School Conference was then read and approved.

Bro. D. D. Troyer, the district evangelist gave a short report of his work. After some discussions, showing the duties of the district evangelist Bro. A. J. Hostetler was elected district evangelist for the Conference year.

Some time was spent in discussing the teaching and practical application of Matt. 5:25.

Bro. E. A. Mast led in a closing prayer for the forenoon.

The afternoon session was opened by singing and reading John 17 followed by prayer.

Miscellaneous work was then done.

Bro. A. J. Hostetler was appointed to act with Bro. Oscar Hostetler appointed by the Mennonite Conference, to make arrangements for the work at the Barker St. congregation.

The Conference Treasurer's report was then read and accepted. Bro. Silas Yoder was reëlected treasurer for the Conference year.

Bro. D. J. Johns was elected delegate to the Western Conference and Jonathan Kurtz to the Eastern Conference.

Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was elected moderator for the next year, D. D. Miller corresponding secretary, E. A. Mast to preach the conference sermon.

D. J. Johns, A. J. Yontz and D. D. Miller were appointed a committee to arrange rules and regulations of Conference, and also to arrange work for the next Conference.

Inasmuch as a congregation has been organized in Oscoda Co., Mich., with a desire to be recognized and cared for by this Conference: therefore be it,

Resolved. That we heartily welcome them into the membership of this Conference.

Resolved, That the petition sent to this Conference by the brotherhood at Middlebury, Ind., be given over to the bishops David Burkholder, Jonathan Kurtz, John Garber, D. J. Johns and the ministers and deacons of the Clinton Brick and Forks congregations, with power to act as they may decide, and their decisions shall be final.

Note:—Being unable to get the above mentioned petition this part may always remain a mystery to many.

Note:—There is no record of how this meeting was closed. However we have a right to believe that it was closed in the proper manner.

Bishops, ministers and deacons present, 21.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Forks Church, Middlebury, Ind., June 8, 9, 1905

After several opening hymns, Bishop David Burkholder conducted devotional services by reading I Cor. 3 and leading in prayer. Jonathan Kurtz having been elected Moderator at the last session the organization was completed by electing D. J. Johns Asst. Moderator, J. S. Hartzler and D. H. Bender Secretaries, and Simon Yoder, Treasurer.

J. H. McGowen preached the conference sermon, basing his discourse on I Cor. 3:11. Among the good points in the sermon were the need of constructing the church on the foundation Christ Jesus, made of such material as will stand the test of fire, storm and flood. A true church member has given evidence of faith, repentance, and regeneration. Along the line of Christian piety and Christian living were mentioned love to our fellowmen, nonresistance, proper matrimonial relations and separation from the world. Attention was called to the ordinances of baptism, communion, feet washing, and devotional covering. The present day Christian needs to give reasons for his faith.

By vote of Conference all visiting ministers and deacons of like faith were made honorary members and invited to take part in the work of the conference.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons responded with short testimonies, after which the laity testified by rising vote.

Forenoon session was closed by verse of song and prayer by Eli Frey.

The afternoon session was opened by song after which I. W. Royer read the 113th Psalm and led in prayer.

The report of committee on Constitution and Discipline of Conference was then read and after some discussion and revision the Constitution was adopted.

The afternoon session was closed by prayer led by Samuel Yoder of Elkhart.

The evening session was opened by a song service after which C. Shertz read John 15 and led in prayer. A number of very profitable queries were discussed and answered.

The subject for the evening, "Helpful Suggestions to Ministers," was opened by A. J. Hostetler and followed by many helpful volunteer talks. Noah Metzler closed the evening session with prayer.

Friday morning the devotional services were conducted by Henry Rychener.

Ques. 1. Needy churches, how to supply them with workers?

Ans. Impress the brotherhood with the responsibility resting upon every member. Organize Sunday schools, young people's meetings, Bible readings, Bible schools and other means of grace; show that ministers should be willing to locate where most needed; ministers do more evangelistic work in those weaker congregations; the bishops of Conference constitute a committee to supply evangelistic work as well as locate workers, to keep up the spiritual life of the brotherhood; teach the members that they should be willing to give up their best young people and even their best ministers to go into other fields.

The forenoon session was closed by prayer by A. J. Yontz.

Friday afternoon Eli Yoder read I Pet. 3:8-16 and led in prayer.

Miscellaneous Business

Program for Sunday School Conference was read and approved.

Report of the state evangelist. Churches in general seemed in good condition. The Treasurer gave a report of the financial condition of Conference showing a deficit of $26.28.

On motion it was decided that the delegates to the General Conference be elected by ballot and that the three getting the highest number of votes on first ballot be considered delegates. I. R. Detweiler, D. D. Miller and S. E. Weaver were elected delegates. Jonathan Kurtz was elected a member on the committee on arrangements for General Conference.

I. W. Royer was elected delegate to the Eastern Conference and D. D. Miller to the Western Conference.

J. H. McGowen and Noah Metzler were appointed a committee to make out a schedule for the Barker Street church and notify the ministers who were to fill appointments there during the next year.

Moved and seconded that some one be appointed to go to Allen Co., Ind., and aid Bro. Eli Yoder in taking the voice of the church, and in case a majority of the church desires it, that congregation be considered a part of this Conference. D. J. Johns was appointed.

The election of officers for the next Conference session resulted as follows: D. D. Miller, Moderator; I. W. Royer, Asst. Moderator; S. E. Weaver, Secretary; S. S. Yoder, Treasurer.

Conference advised that the parties at the Nappanee church who made application to be received into church fellowship having certain irregularities with regard to their marriage relation, be not received for the present.

After prayer by the moderator the Conference adjourned.

While there were long discussions in which the ministry were not fully in one mind, yet we trust that our heavenly Father will overrule all to His glory.

4 bishops, 30 ministers, and 4 deacons were present.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Clinton Church, Elkhart Co., Ind., June 7, 8, 1906

The nineteenth Conference for the district of Indiana and Michigan was held on June 7 and 8, 1906, at the Clinton Church, Elkhart Co., Ind. Meeting was called to order by the moderator, D. D. Miller, at 10 A. M. Several hymns were sung, after which David Burkholder read Eph. 4:1-16 and led in prayer. After electing J. S. Hartzler assistant secretary the Conference was ready for work.

The minutes of the previous Conference were read and approved, after which Jonathan Kurtz preached the Conference sermon, basing his discourse on I Cor. 3:9. Many thoughts were presented, of which we note a few.

Fully realizing the great salvation that has been wrought for us and knowing this to be wanting in so many lives, we should be aroused to put forth all efforts for the ingathering of lost souls. Coöperation of Christian workers is a safeguard. We are individually responsible as to where and how we build. We need to study the Word and that for ourselves rather than hire some one to study it for us. We are in danger of drifting away from the Bible teaching on nonresistance as well as from the doctrine of nonconformity in business and attire.

All bishops, ministers, and deacons present responded with short testimonies, expressing their willingness to be "workers together with God." The laity testified to the same by a rising vote.

The forenoon session closed by prayer.

Thursday Afternoon

Session was opened by song and C. Z. Yoder then conducted devotional services, reading I Peter 1 and leading in prayer. By a motion passed by the Conference, all visiting ministers of like faith were made honorary members of Conference and invited to take part in the discussions. The work previously arranged by the executive committee was then taken up.

Ques. 1. The needs of the unsaved world?

The one great need of the unsaved world is the transforming power there is in Jesus Christ. Such a change would be manifested in its uplifting influence, mental development, and freedom

from superstition. The unsaved in Christian lands need a willingness to be made willing to yield to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit for a full surrender. The brethren need to have Christ brought to them by those who know what it means to be lost and then to be gloriously saved.

Ques. 2. Effective ways of teaching our people the needs of the unsaved world?

Ans. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit we should enter into a compassionate fellow-feeling for those of the unsaved world. Then acquainting ourselves with real conditions we might effectively teach our people those needs. We need to prepare for and to do personal work along this line, such as visiting missions, directing others to visit and reading missionary literature.

Ques. 3. What is the responsibility of the church to supply those needs?

Ans. Since God so loved the world that He gave His Son to supply those needs and has commissioned the church to spread the knowledge of the Lord until all shall know of Him, the church is responsible, (a) for proper teaching; (b) for the talent that lies dormant within it; (c) for the wealth entrusted to its members which is needed for the work; (d) for a full consecration of all the time necessary to carry out the great commission (Matt. 28:19, 20).

After a closing prayer Conference adjourned at four o'clock to meet again at seven.

In the absence of the moderator, the assistant moderator, I. W. Royer, took charge of the evening session.

The first half hour was devoted to the subject, "The Power of Song, or Songs that Have Helped Me." After singing several hymns and being led in prayer by S. H. Miller, thanking God for the power of song, different ones spoke briefly upon the same subject. The next half hour was devoted to a discussion of a number of queries. The bishops at the noon hour arranged a number of talks for the evening services, and after prayer by Jonathan Kurtz these were given. The subjects were: "Duty of the Bishop," by David Burkholder; "Duty of the Minister," by Henry Rychener; "Duty of the Deacon," by C. Z. Yoder; "Duty of the Laity," by S. H. Miller. These were presented in a way which proved helpful.

Friday Forenoon

Conference met at 9:30 and was opened by singing and devotional services led by John E. Hartzler. The next question was then considered.

Ques. 4. Does this Conference consider it advisable for min-

isters of the non-resistant faith to unite in marriage those who believe in taking up arms and tolerate secrecy and divorce?

Ans. Since we believe that ministers will have more power and influence if they abstain from officiating upon such occasions and that God's Word teaches non-resistance and abstinence from secrecy and divorce and that obedience is one of our greatest duties (Jno. 14:15, 21, 23, 24; I Jno. 2:3-5; 3:22, 24), therefore we believe that it is advisable for our ministers not to officiate upon such occasions.

Ques. 5. What are some of the dangers of forming partnerships in stock companies?

We would be in danger (a) of growing weaker in our spiritual life, (b) of being unequally yoked with unbelievers, (c) of having our conscience hardened, (d) of becoming greedy of filthy lucre, (e) of forfeiting our non-resistant doctrine, (f) of losing our Christian liberty, (g) of being conformed to the world.

I. W. Royer led in a closing prayer and conference adjourned for the noon hour.

Friday Afternoon

E. A. Mast read the 32nd Psalm and led in prayer. The miscellaneous business of the conference was then taken up. I. R. Detweiler was elected as a director on the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. A motion was passed that delegates to sister conferences be elected by ballot and the question was then raised as to what one should consider when voting for a delegate. The different answers seemed to set forth the idea that he who can best represent this conference at that particular place should be sent as delegate.

D. D. Miller was elected delegate to the Eastern Conference. D. J. Johns was elected delegate to the Western Conference. John Garber and Silas Yoder were selected to make out a schedule for the Barker Street church. The Pretty Prairie congregation was given in charge of Jonathan Kurtz.

The Treasurer's report was given and approved, there being a deficiency of $3.43.

The oversight of the Allen County congregation was given to Jonathan Kurtz for one year or until their home bishop be reinstated.

The bishops of this conference who had constituted a committee to supply evangelistic work and locate workers for the past year reported the condition of the various churches. With few exceptions the different congregations each had a series of meetings which in the number of accessions seemed a success. A motion was passed that the bishops continue as a committee for this work.

The organization for the next conference resulted in the election of D. J. Johns moderator, I. R. Detweiler assistant moderator, and S. E. Weaver secretary.

Jonathan Kurtz then raised the question as to whether this conference district might not have an Aid Plan by which we could in a systematic way aid our brethren when they suffer loss by fire. The subject was discussed at some length and resulted in the passing of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this conference favors the idea of an Aid Plan for the two conference districts of Indiana and Michigan and that this conference appoints three brethren who shall act with the Mennonite Conference in framing a constitution to be presented at our next conference. In case the Mennonite Conference does not appoint brethren to act with the three appointed by this conference then the three shall formulate plans to be thus considered.

The moderator chose I. W. Royer, Simon S. Yoder and John Zook to act as a committee for this work.

Jonathan Kurtz then led in closing prayer and conference adjourned. Those present were:

Bishops.—E. A. Mast, Kokomo, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind; David Burkholder, Nappance, Ind.; D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.

Ministers.—Eli Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.; Henry Rychener, Wauseon, Ohio; I. R. Detweiler, Topeka, Ind.; Jonathan Hartzler, West Liberty, Ohio; Eli Bontrager, Fairview, Mich.; C. Z. Yoder, Weilersville, Ohio; A. J. Yontz, Topeka, Ind.; Samuel Honderich, Goshen, Ind.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; A. J. Hostetler, Middlebury, Ind.; Reuben Ebersole, Monroe, Ind; S. E. Weaver, Shipshewana, Ind.; I. W. Royer, Goshen, Ind.; John E. Hartzler, East Lynne, Mo.; S. H. Miller, Berlin, Ohio; Silas Yoder, Goshen, Ind.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.

Deacons.—Daniel Coffman, Goshen, Ind.; J. Y. Hooley, Shipshewana, Ind.; S. S. Yoder, Middlebury, Ind.; Frank Mast, Nappanee, Ind.; N. S. Hoover, Goshen, Ind.

S. E. Weaver,
J. S. Hartzler,
Secretaries.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at Nappanee, Ind., June 6 and 7, 1907

Following the opening devotional services the first half day session was occupied with the Conference sermon preached by J. F. Brunk and D. D. Miller, and short testimonies from the other members.

The previously arranged questions were then taken up:

Ques. 1. By what means could we improve our present methods of Bible study in our congregations?

Ans. (1) By a willingness to devote more time to study. (2) By following some regular course. (3) By the ministers and Sunday school workers taking an active interest in the work. (4) By discussing the work done in the Young People's Meeting. (5) By having some one in each congregation who shall endeavor to work up an interest in Bible study.

Ques. 2. To what extent should this Conference control its Bible Conferences?

Resolved, That this Conference appoint a committee to superintend the Bible Conference work of this conference district; that the Conference help to pay the traveling expenses of the smaller congregations; that at least one of the instructors have had some experience in the work.

Ques. 3. What can this Conference do to establish a more perfect mission interest?

Resolved, That we urge the organization of a Mission Study Class in each congregation by the minister in charge, and that each congregation should have at least two mission services a year, in which the field and its need will be held forth.

Ques. 4. Should a member who marries an unbeliever be considered in good standing in the church?

Ans. According to I Cor. 7:39, "only in the Lord," and in II Cor. 6:14, "be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," we consider that such a one is not in good standing in the church and should be dealt with as a transgressor.

Ques. 5. Does the Conference sanction the idea of the church owning and controlling its publishing interests?

Ans. This Conference does favor the idea and in harmony with it shall appoint a member to act with others likewise appointed as a committee to investigate such interests.

Miscellaneous

D. D. Troyer and Oscar Hostetler were selected to arrange a schedule of appointments for the Barker St. Congregation for the next year. Simon Yoder and Joseph Hooley were placed in charge of the Pretty Prairie Congregation for one year. I. R. Detweiler was retained as a trustee of the Board of Education and also retained as a trustee on the Board of Missions and Charities. The bishop in charge of the Leo Congregation presented the following resolution, which was passed by the Conference:

Whereas there is great need for another minister in the Leo Congregation, and whereas Eli Yoder and many of the members have expressed a desire that Bro. Yoder have help, and whereas

those who know the conditions of the church, think it best that some one from some other place be called to the work in the said church, therefore be it resolved that this Conference advise the church to make efforts to get some one having the necessary qualifications to fill that position who is not now a resident of that neighborhood.

After considering the appeal from the brethren in Adams Co., it was moved and passed that the bishops form a committee to investigate conditions in Adams Co., and to act according to their best judgment.

The Sunday School Conference program was presented and accepted. The bishops reported the progress of the different congregations during the year. Series of meetings have been held in almost all the congregations and the number of [illegible] reported was fifty-eight. The bishops were retained as a committee for evangelistic work.

E. A. Mast was elected delegate to the Western Conference and A. J. Hostetler to the Eastern Conference. S. E. Weaver, Silas Yoder and I. R. Detweiler were elected delegates to the General Conference. J. Kurtz was appointed committeeman on publishing interests according to decision of Ques. 5.

In accordance with decision to Ques. 2, Silas Yoder, J. Kurtz and S. E. Weaver were elected as a Bible Conference Committee. D. J. Johns was elected as a member of Committee on Arrangements for General Conference. The Aid Plan Committee reported the result of their investigation and after some discussion the following resolution with its amendment was passed:

Resolved, That this committee formulate the thoughts given here and that the plan be given to the deacons or visiting brethren of each congregation and get the voice of the congregations and report to the next conference. Amendment: That D. D. Miller and J. Kurtz be added members of this committee.

The treasurer's report showing a balance of $13.07 was presented and accepted.

The oversight of the Allen Co., Congregation for the next year was given to J. Kurtz.

The organization for the next conference year resulted in the election of J. Kurtz, moderator; I. W. Royer, assistant moderator; S. E. Weaver, secretary.

Those present at this Conference were:

Bishops.—D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; E. A. Mast, Kokomo, Ind.; David Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers.—J. F. Brunk, La Junta, Colo.; J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.; A. J. Yontz, Topeka, Ind.; Jonathan Hartzler, West Liberty, O.; J. H. Byler, Belleville, Pa.; J. S. Horner, Chief,

Mich.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; A. J. Hostetler, Middlebury, Ind.; Silas Yoder, Goshen, Ind.; Amos Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; I. W. Royer, Goshen, Ind.; S. E. Weaver, Shipshewana, Ind.; Christian Byler, West Liberty, O.; J. E. Hartzler, East Lynne, Mo.; Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Jacob Christophel, Wakarusa, Ind.; John Baer, Nappanee, Ind.

Deacons.—Frank Mast, Nappanee, Ind.; J. Y. Hooley, Shipshewana, Ind.; S. S. Yoder, Middlebury, Ind.

Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held near Leo, Ind., June 2 and 3, 1908

Conference was called to order by the moderator, J. Kurtz. After devotional, the minutes of previous meeting were read and accepted.

Benjamin Gerig preached the conference sermon from I Cor. 3:10, 11, and hearty responses were given by each of the other members.

During the session a discussion of Eph. 4:11 was conducted by the conference, having been assigned and presented as follows: Apostles, D. J. Johns; Prophets, I. R. Detweiler; Evangelists, E. A. Bontrager; Pastors, D. D. Miller; Teachers, S. S. Yoder.

The following thoughts were presented:

An apostle is one who is sent of God the Father and the Son to bear the Gospel message to the people even in the present day, also one who was an eyewitness of Christ's appearance after His resurrection. (Acts 1:22; I Cor. 15:6).

A prophet is one who foretells future events to inspire men to do right in the sight of God. One who was called at a special time for a special occasion (Luke 1:76; Acts 11: 22-25).

An evangelist is one who is called to carry the Gospel of salvation to the lost world, and to revive and confirm the churches in the faith and doctrine of Christ (Acts 11:22-25).

A pastor is a shepherd who has charge of the flock. He should be gentle, approachable, and one able to lead and feed both sheep and lambs. The true pastor will come into personal touch with the individuals under his care and will impress himself upon them as one who loves them and one who earnestly longs for their welfare.

A teacher is one who imparts knowledge. Teaching, while in a sense distinct from preaching, is of no less importance. The real methods of teaching, and the subject matter to be taught may best be learned from the Great Teacher, Jesus.

The subject, **Our Conference and Its Results,** was opened by J. H. McGowen, and resulted in the following resolution:

Resolved, That our conference has resulted in (a) removal of fear and prejudice between individual churches and even between the church in different states; (b) agitation of questions regarding work; (c) education of the people regarding the needs; much help to the Y. P. meetings, Bible Conferences, etc. The conference in the future should meet the needs of the church as they come.

The subject, **Christian Conduct at Funerals and Weddings,** was opened by Silas Yoder, and after discussion the following resolution was passed:

Whereas, there is a tendency to extravagance at funerals and weddings, and we should be a separate people and do all to the glory of God, be it,

Resolved, That we discourage in every reasonable way the display of flowers, the unbecoming ways of carrying the dead, the inconsistent sending away for ministers, choir singing, etc., on funeral occasions; the putting in of expensive vaults and erecting of expensive tombstones; and the display in flowers, rings, dress, decorations, etc., at weddings, and that we encourage simplicity and care on such occasions.

Miscellaneous

The Aid Plan Committee reported that their formulated plans were not received by the different congregations. A motion was passed that the different congregations report to the Secretary of Conference the number of people in their congregation who do not insure because of conscientious scruples.

It was decided to allow the Leo Congregation to select the bishop who shall preside over them for the next year. A. J. Yontz and S. E. Weaver were asked to take the voice of the congregation not later than June 28, 1908.

Silas Yoder was appointed to act with a brother chosen by John Garber to arrange a schedule of appointments for Barker Street for the coming year.

Simon Yoder and Joseph Hooley were retained to look after the Pretty Prairie congregation.

A motion was passed that we annually hold our conference the first Thursday and Friday in June.

The evangelistic committee and Bible Conference committee reported the work done during the past year, and the work of both committees was given to the latter committee, with I. R. Detweiler as an added member.

The bishops, together with Daniel Yoder, are to look after the interests of the Adams Co., congregation.

The S. S. Meeting committee which had been appointed by the Mennonite Conference and executive committee of this conference reported the following divisions of the conference districts for holding separate S. S. meetings:

Michigan District—White Cloud, Bowne, Caledonia, Chief, Fairview, Brutus.

Middlebury District—Middlebury, Forks, Shore, Pretty Prairie, Barker Street.

Topeka District—Topeka, Emma, Hudson, Leo, Ft. Wayne, Gar Creek.

Goshen District—Goshen, Clinton (Brick), Clinton A. M.

Elkhart District—Nappanee (M.), Nappanee (A. M.), Salem, Yellow Creek.

Kokomo District—Kokomo, Linn Grove.

The said committee offered the following advice: Believing the present method of propagating the S. S. conference committee to be unsatisfactory, we advise that the two conferences, each in their own way, select and maintain three brethren to act on a committee of six known as the program committee. The advice was adopted and S. S. Yoder was appointed on that committee for one year; D. J. Johns, two years; J. H. Walters, three years.

The S. S. conference program was read and adopted, subject to necessary changes left to the committee.

The following resolution was passed

Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that the Forks church make an effort to have the mutes given spiritual instruction, and that if the church considers it proper, the conference favors the ordination of a minister for their benefit.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted, showing a balance of $5.06 in the treasury.

A motion was passed that the executive committee consider the revision of the Constitution.

Organization for the following year resulted as follows: Moderator, D. D. Miller; Asst. Moderator, D. J. Johns; Secretary, S. E. Weaver; Trustee of M. B. of M. C., I. R. Detweiler; member of Publication Board, J. Kurtz; delegate to Eastern Conference, S. E. Weaver; delegate to Western Conference, I. W. Royer; Trustee for Ft. Wayne Mission, John Zook; Treasurer (three years), J. Y. Hooley.

Bishops.—Benjamin Gerig, Smithville, O.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.; M. C. Lapp, Dhamtari, India; D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; S. E. Allgyer, West Liberty, O.

Ministers.—Eli Miller, Goshen, Ind.; Eli Yoder, Leo, Ind.; J. A. Leichty, Louisville, Ohio.; P. R. Lantz, Canton, O.; S. S. Yoder, Middlebury, Ind.; J. M. Hartzler, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; S. E. Weaver, Goshen, Ind.; D. J. Fisher, Kalona, Ia.; J. Somers, Louisville, O.; J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.; I. R. Detweiler, Go-

shen, Ind.; N. M. Slabaugh, Greentown, Ind.; C. Z. Yoder, Wooster, O.; Daniel Yoder, Berne, Ind.; J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; A. J. Hostetler, Middlebury, Ind.; Silas Yoder, Goshen, Ind.; J. S. Yoder, Wellman, Ia.; Jacob Yoder, Kalona, Ia.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; A. J. Yontz, Topeka, Ind.; I. W. Royer, Goshen, Ind.; Benjamin Gerig, Leo, Ind.; M. S. Steiner, Columbus Grove, O.; E. A. Bontrager, Fairview, Mich.; Joseph J. Schlatter, Grabill, Ind.; Eli Stover, Waterloo, Ind.

Deacons.—N. W. King, Amboy, Ind.; J. Y. Hooley, Shipshewana, Ind.; C. S. Leichty, Grabill, Ind.

S. E. Weaver, Secy.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held near Kokomo, Ind., June 3 and 4, 1909

Conference was called to order by the moderator, D. D. Miller. After a devotional service, the minutes of the previous conference were read, corrected and accepted.

D. D. Miller preached the conference sermon from Isaiah 52:1, after which a short testimony was given by each of the twenty bishops, ministers, and deacons present.

During the sessions of the conference, the following questions were discussed and the attached answers adopted:

Ques. 1. What is meant by faithfulness to the church?

Ans. Faithfulness to the church implies: (1) a being born into the church by the Spirit (Jno. 3:3, 5); (2) a due consideration for her authority; (3) a continued use of our abilities for the upbuilding of the body of Christ by seeking to gather in the lost and to promote the unity of its members.

Ques. 2. Advantages of systematic giving.

Ans. It is the sense of this conference that a systematic method of giving would result in: (1) an increased amount of gathering for the Lord's work; (2) a more proportionate giving; (3) a more proper distribution of that which is given; (4) an opportunity to teach our children to give and to be interested in mission work; (5) an avoidance of financial embarrassments for those in charge of the benevolent funds.

Ques. 3. Our form of church government.

Ans. We believe the individual form of government to be the ideal one, and the one which will greatly lessen the need for other forms. However, we need and maintain a congregational form of government in which the power of final decision lies largely with the congregation (I Cor. 5: Matt. 18:17), also somewhat of an episcopalian form, in view of the fact that members are plainly taught to be obedient to those who rule over them (Heb. 13:17), and further that being able to rule well is a qualification for the bishop (I Tim. 3:4; Titus 1:9).

Ques. 4. Spiritual growth.

Ans. The following tend to spiritual growth: (1) to be born of the incorruptible seed (I Pet. 1:23); (2) proper food (I Pet. 2:2); (3) to put away things that are contrary to the Spirit of God (I Pet. 2:1); (4) proper environment (Heb. 5:11-13); (5) a desire to do God's will (Heb. 10:7); (6) exercising the senses (Heb. 5:14); (7) working to get others into the fold; (8) prayer (Eph. 6:18).

Miscellaneous

The treasurer's report was given and accepted, showing a balance of one cent.

The delegates to the sister conferences were asked concerning their visits and each gave a brief report. There seemed to be a sentiment in favor of having such delegates prepare themselves with definite reports.

The evangelistic committee reported that no appeal for assistance was made during the year by any of the congregations; each provided for its own meetings and Bible Conferences. Further, that the committee had arranged and sent to each congregation a printed list of questions to be answered and sent to the committee, giving a report of membership and work done. The totals of these reports cannot be well given, since two congregations failed to report. The work of the committee was accepted and the committee retained.

The secretatry of Conference reported the number of members that had been found who do not insure their property because of conscientious scruples. A motion was sustained to rule the insurance question out of Conference.

The committee of bishops reported what had been done in Adams Co. The committee was retained.

The Sunday School Conference program was read and approved.

A motion was passed that S. S. Yoder and J. Y. Hooley be retained to look after the work at Pretty Prairie, holding services there at least every two months.

The following elections were made: S. S. Yoder, member of the Sunday School Conference Committee for three years; J. Kurtz, member of the Publication Board; D. D. Miller, member of the Committee on Arrangements for General Conference; S. S. Yoder, to assist in arranging a schedule of appointments for the Barker Street congregation; D. J. Johns, delegate to Western Conference; S. S. Yoder, delegate to Eastern Conference; J. D. Zook, member of Ft. Wayne Mission Board; I. R. Detweiler, member of Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; S. E.

Weaver, I. R. Detweiler, D. D. Troyer, delegates to General Conference.

D. J. Johns, Moderator; I. W. Royer, Asst. Moderator; S. E. Weaver, Secretary.

The following resolutions were passed:

1. Whereas, the question of an Aid Plan under the direction of Conference has been ruled out of Conference, and whereas some brethren urge that some organization of this kind be maintained within the church, therefore be it,

Resolved, That this Conference encourage the brethren desiring such an organization to meet and form a plan of protection to be maintained within the brotherhood of the two Mennonite Conferences of Indiana and Michigan.

2. Resolved, That this Conference urges that the members of the various congregations of this conference district be urged to give systematically for mission and charitable purposes, and that the various congregations of this conference encourage the members in this, by holding quarterly, monthly or weekly collections (I Cor. 16:2).

3. Whereas, the ministers assembled in this conference believe the "Talk to Preachers," given by J. S. Hartzler at the Thursday evening session to be of such a helpful nature that it should be spread further; be it,

Resolved, That he be asked to write up the talk for the Gospel Herald.

4. Whereas, we believe that it were better for the Pretty Prairie members to move to where there is an organized congregation, and whereas we believe that they would do so if the services there were discontinued, and since there is no hope of building up a congregation, be it,

Resolved, That we advise Bro. Bontrager to sell his property and locate in a community where there is a church, and that it is the sense of this Conference that services there be discontinued after this next conference year.

Those in attendance at this Conference were:

Bishops.—D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; S. E. Allgyer, West Liberty, O.; E. A. Mast, Kokomo, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.; Geo. Summers, Gridley, Ill.; Menno Eash, Kneeland, Mich.

Ministers.—C. Z. Yoder, Wooster, O.; I. R. Detweiler, Goshen, Ind.; J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.; S. E. Weaver, Goshen, Ind.; Niles Slabaugh, Greentown, Ind.; I. W. Royer, Goshen, Ind.; Seth Hershberger, Shipshewana, Ind.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; Silas Yoder, Goshen, Ind.; J. H. McGowen, Nappanee, Ind.; Ben B. King, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; S. S. Yoder, Middlebury, Ind.

Deacons.—J. Y. Hooley, Shipshewana, Ind.; Noah King, Amboy, Ind.

S. E. Weaver, Secy.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held in Middlebury, Ind., June 2, 3, 1910

Conference was opened at nine o'clock on Thursday morning by singing a few hymns and by a devotional service led by J. F. Funk.

Jonathan Kurtz preached the conference sermon from I Cor. 3:9, and each of the thirty-three ministers present responded with a short testimony. The brotherhood responded by rising.

During the sessions the following subjects were discussed and acted upon:

1. Discussion of **Constitution and Discipline** on points which had been called in question.

The discussion was helpful in bringing out the intent and purpose of various sections and resulted in unanimous consent to leave the Constitution and Discipline as it is, with the single exception of Art. 3, Sec. 2.

Ques. 2. The World (I Jno. 2:15).

Ans. The world as implied in this text stands for that which is in direct opposition to heaven—the things which are pleasing to the unregenerate mind, such as (a) inordinate love for money (I Tim. 6:10); (b) outward adornment (I Pet. 3:3); (c) love of pleasure (II Tim. 3:2-4); (d) unholy conversation and thought (Eph. 4: 29; II Cor. 10:5); (e) intemperance (Prov. 23:29, 32)—in brief, anything that opposes the purposes of God concerning the spiritual welfare of man.

Ques. 3. How is the love of God perfected in him who keepeth His Word (I Jno. 2:5)?

Ans. Since the Word is perfect to convert the soul (Psa. 19: 7; Rom. 1:16), and has cleansing power (Psa. 119:9; Jno. 15:3), since the Word purifies us by obeying the truths (I Pet. 1:22; Jno. 15:10), we conclude that if we keep His commandments in love and continue in His Word, His love is perfect in us.

Ques. 4. Our present needs in this District.

Ans. We believe that the present needs of this conference district are, (a) wisdom and willingness to make better use of the means with which God has blessed us, (b) greater love and zeal for God and the salvation of lost souls, (c) more personal work, (d) ministerial meetings. Though we might have more bishops, ministers, and deacons, we are more in need of a deeper consecration, a setting of affections on heavenly things, a striving for a better knowledge of the Bible, a making of full proof of their

ministry and a declaring of the whole counsel of God on the part of those already ordained.

Ques. 5. Our past resolutions—are they heeded?

Ans. With few exceptions the resolutions of this Conference during its past twenty-two years have been commendably heeded.

The review of the history of the Conference as it came out in this subject was a source of pleasure and encouragement. A resolution calling for the printing and distributing of the past resolutions deferred for the immediate present.

Reports

The following reports were made and accepted:

1. Delegates.—Jonathan Kurtz reported the work of the last Western Conference, which he attended as proxy for D. J. Johns. Simon Yoder, delegate to Eastern Conference, presented a well written report of the work as he found it. These reports were an immediate and practical help to our own Conference. J. S. Mast, delegate from Eastern Conference, and D. J. Fisher, delegate from Western Conference, each brought greetings from his respective Conference.

2. The evangelistic committee reported they had revised and sent out blanks for the reports from the congregations, and that there were again no calls for assistance to provide for meetings and Bible conferences. The blanks were adopted with additional item which asks for amount of missionary collections. Committee was relieved.

3. The churches represented made reports which show that of the eleven 5 had Bible conferences, 7 had series of meetings, 5 had mission sermons, 2 had mission study classes. Total membership was 1587. Four churches reported their mission collections which amounted to $1090.

4. The Bishops' committee reported the work of the past year in Adams Co. Services had been provided. The work was given in charge of E. A. Mast and the committee relieved.

5. The treasurer reported a balance of $9.05.

6. The S. S. Conference committee reported their program which was accepted entire.

Resolutions

Resolved: 1. That the providing for services at Pretty Prairie be given indefinitely to the members residing at that place.

2. That we recommend that our Constitution be amended so that Art. 3, Sec. 2, read as follows: "Each congregation shall be further represented by a delegation from its laity, one for each hundred members or fraction thereof."

3. That this Conference adopt the form of removal letter, presented by the moderator on condition that there be added thereto the phrase "void after a stated date."

4. That the Conference treasurer be authorized to pay for the church letter blanks which have been adopted.

5. That we allow the coming Executive Committee to call a ministerial meeting at their will.

6. That we advise each congregation to make provision for the keeping of a church record from which the annual reports can be made.

Elections

The following were made: I. S. Johns, member on S. S. Conference committee for three years; Jonathan Kurtz, member of the Publication Board; J. D. Zook, trustee on Ft. Wayne Mission Board; I. R. Detweiler, trustee on M. B. of M. and C.; C. P. Yoder, member of Educational Board for four years; S. E. Weaver, delegate to Western Conference; Jonathan Kurtz, delegate to Eastern Conference; Andrew Hostetler, member on Barker Street Congregation; D. D. Miller, Moderator; I. R. Detweiler, Asst. Moderator; S. E. Weaver, Secretary.

Attendance

There were present at this Conference a number of brethren from other conferences, whose presence and help was much appreciated. J. E. Hartzler, who was asked to speak at the Thursday evening meeting on the subject, "The Church and Her Young People," gave a timely, helpful, and impressive address which stirred the hearts of both old and young. Bro. and Sister C. D. Eash, prospective missionaries to India, were present and added to the interest of the meeting by giving brief addresses. Sister Lydia Schertz, missionary from India was present and added a decided mission spirit to the meetings by her presence and helpful address.

Bishops.—J. Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.; Menno Esch, Kneeland, Mich.; J. S. Mast, Elverson, Pa.; D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.; E. A. Mast, Kokomo, Ind.; John Garber, Goshen, Ind.; Eli S. Miller, Goshen, Ind.

Ministers.—D. S. Brunk, La Junta, Colo.; D. J. Fisher, Kalona, Ia; Niles Slabaugh, Greentown, Ind; J. C. Springer, Goshen, Ind.; Simon S. Yoder, Middlebury, Ind.; J. E. Hartzler, Elkhart, Ind.; J. F. Funk, Elkhart, Ind.; P. E. Whitmer, Goshen, Ind.; A. J. Yontz, Topeka, Ind.; J. B. Smith, West Liberty, O.; Y. C. Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.; C. Z. Yoder, Wooster, O.; Silas Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.; Seth Hershberger, Shipshewana, Ind.; Silas Yoder, Goshen, Ind.; Amos Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.; D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.; I. R. Detweiler, Goshen, Ind.; A. J. Hostetler, Middlebury, Ind.; Samuel Grieser, Archbold, O.; S. E.

Weaver, Goshen, Ind.; I. W. Royer, Goshen, Ind.; Harvey Friesen, Vistula, Ind.; David A. Yoder, Wakarusa, Ind.

Deacons.—J. Y. Hooley, Shipshewana, Ind.; Jacob Hershberger, Middlebury, Ind.; Jacob Frey, Archbold, O.; I. S. Johns, Amos Landis, and Daniel Coffman, Goshen, Ind.

Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Maple Grove Church, near Topeka, Ind., June 1 and 2, 1911

The twenty-fourth annual A. M. Conference of Ind.-Mich. met with the Maple Grove congregation near Topeka, Ind., June 1 and 2, 1911.

Conference was opened at 9 o'clock on Thursday morning by singing a few hymns and devotional service led by J. H. McGowen.

The minutes of the previous conference were read and approved.

D. J. Johns preached the conference sermon from Eph. 4:11-15 and each of the ministers present responded with a short testimony. The brotherhood responded by rising.

During the sessions the following subjects were discussed and passed upon:

Ques. 1. The ministry. (a) **Qualifications: Bishop. Minister. Deacon.**

Ans. We believe that the New Testament teaches all the essential qualifications for Church officers; such as, bishops, ministers and deacons (I Tim. 3:2-13; Tit. 1:6-11; II Tim. 2:2; Acts 6:3, 5).

(b) **Ordination.**

The congregation should prayerfuly consider the need of ordination and the possibility of filling that need. They should decide how to proceed and then find the qualified brother or brethren according to our Rules and Discipline (Acts 1:15-26; 6:1-6; 14:23).

Ques. 2. Privileges of congregation and ministry in changing of location of the minister.

Ans. A minister should consult his congregation before leaving it and each congregation should have the privilege of determining the basis on which an incoming minister shall be received.

Ques. 3. How counteract the tendency to unequal yoking?

Ans. Since there are so many ways in which our brethren are drawn into the unequal yoke in commercialism, we advise that the

ministry do more definite teaching along this line and that the ministry and laity use their influence as best they can to help those already entangled out of this difficulty and that those who are connected with this unequal yoke make efforts to free themselves from the same.

Ques. 4. To what extent can we successfully work with other denominations?

Ans. We believe that we should exercise charity towards all Christian denominations and treat them with courtesy and respect at all times but we are never justified in deviating from Gospel teaching in working with those denominations that deviate from Gospel principles. All such coöperation makes us partakers with them of their life and worship which is forbidden in God's Word (Gal. 1:8; II Cor. 11:14, 13-15; II Kings 17:6-23).

Reports

The congregations represented made their annual reports which show that of the 11, 4 had Bible conferences, 9 had series of meetings, each had confessions and accessions, 9 had missionary sermons and 9 held missionary collections. The total membership was 1,603, total gain 16. Amount of missionary offerings, $1,151.33.

The Sunday School Conference Program Committee presented their program for the coming Sunday School Conference. It was accepted.

The treasurer reported a balance of $18.18.

Elections and Appointments

Walter Yoder, member of S. S. Conference Committee for three years; J. Kurtz, member of Publication Board; John D. Zook, member of Ft. Wayne Mission Board; D. D. Troyer, member of Barker Street Committee; I. R. Detweiler, trustee of M. B. of M. & C.; S. E. Weaver, S. S. Yoder, J. H. McGowen, delegates to General Conference; S. E. Weaver, member on committee of arrangements for General Conference; N. M. Slabaugh, delegate to Eastern Conference; Andrew Hostetler, delegate to Western Conference. Jonathan Kurtz, Moderator; Menno Esch, Asst. Moderator; J. Y. Hooley, Treasurer for three years; S. E. Weaver, Secretary.

Miscellaneous

In response to a request from the brotherhood of Manistee Co., Mich., for help a committee consisting of D. J. Johns and E. A. Mast was appointed to look after their needs.

Resolution.—This Conference advises, pending the same action

by the Ind.-Mich. fall conference, that the Barker Street congregation by the counsel of the Church choose a bishop who shall have the oversight of that congregation.

The amendment formulated and passed upon by the previous Conference proposing to amend Art. 3, Sec. 2 of the Constitution was voted down by the Conference.

Conference considered the advisability of having the 1912 session in Oscoda Co., Mich., and concluded by requesting the executive committee to so arrange for next year's work.

P. E. Whitmer, who had been invited to speak at the Thursday evening session on "The Sermon" gave an interesting talk, which was helpful to both laity and ministry.

J. S. Hartzler was present and gave a talk on Palestine which was much appreciated.

Abner Yoder of Parnell, Iowa, represented the Western Conference at this conference.

The following were in attendance:

Bishops.—E. A. Mast, Kokomo, Ind.; J. Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.; D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.; D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.

Ministers.—Eli Miller, D. D. Troyer, S. E. Weaver, Silas Yoder, P. E. Whitmer, J. S. Hartzler, Amos Geigley, I. R. Detweiler, Goshen, Ind.; A. J. Hostetler, S. S. Yoder, Middlebury, Ind.; A. J. Yontz, Topeka, Ind.; J. H. McGowen, Ezra Mullet, Nappanee, Ind.; J. S. Horner, Howard Co, Ind.; A. S. Miller, Spencerville, Ind.; Oscar Hostetler, Topeka, Ind.; N. M. Slabaugh, Greentown, Ind.; Josiah Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.

Deacons.—Abner Yoder, Parnell, Ia.; J. Y. Hooley, Shipshewana, Ind.; I. S. Johns, A. S. Landis, Goshen, Ind.; James Mishler, Shipshewana, Ind.

P. E. Whitmer and S. S. Yoder, committee on resolutions.

S. E, Weaver, Secy.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at Fairview, Oscoda Co., Mich. June, 1912

Conference opened on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock. After singing a few hymns the devotional services were conducted by E. A. Mast.

Moderator, Jonathan Kurtz; Asst. Moderator, Menno Eash. The regular secretary not being present, Ira S. Johns was elected secretary pro tem.

Jonathan Kurtz preached the conference sermon from Eph. 2:18-22. The bishops, ministers and deacons present responded with short testimonies. The congregation responded by rising.

Ques. 1. Response to resolution on union passed by Ind.-Mich. Mennonite Conference.

Ans. This conference endorses the resolution passed by the Ind.-Mich. Mennonite Conference and favors the appointing of a committee in accordance with said resolution. Since the sister conference has taken action so far, be it,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to work with a same number appointed by said conference, the first brother named in their committee shall be considered temporary chairman to call a meeting of the two committees.

The following committee was named: Jonathan Kurtz, D. J. Johns, D. D. Miller, A. J. Hostetler, and I. R. Detweiler.

Ques. 2. Has a bishop the right to expel a member without the consent of the laity?

Ans. Resolved, That the Church as a body act upon all cases where a member violates a principal of the Gospel (Matt. 18:17), and the bishop announce the result; he should also announce all withdrawals from the Church.

The question of establishing a Mission in North Goshen was considered. On motion it was decided that the brethren, D. J. Johns and D. D. Miller, conjointly with the executive committee of the Mission Board of the Ind.-Mich. Mennonite Conference, investigate the advisability of organizing a Mission in North Goshen, and if it be considered favorable they conjointly shall appoint a local board for said Mission.

Ques. 3. Shall this conference make provision for meeting the traveling expenses of its members while attending its conferences?

Ans. Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to make out a budget of the probable expense of the members attending this conference, the delegates to the Eastern and Western A. M. Conferences, and the delegates to the General Conference; also the traveling expenses of ministers sent to the smaller congregations. The Executive Committee shall inform each congregation of their proportionate share.

Ques. 4. What is the Church's duty toward meeting the social needs of her young people?

Ans. Whereas, the Church feels the need of taking more definite steps in meeting the social needs of her young people, and, whereas our young people need to be directed in the right channels of life, be it,

Resolved, (1) That the ministry be encouraged to give special teaching along these lines.

(2) That the ministers seek for a close association with the young people.

(3) That the ministry see that the young people are kept active in their spiritual work.

(4) That the young people be encouraged to visit the sick, sing in the needy homes and labor for the spiritual welfare of the afflicted and lost ones.

(5) That parents be encouraged to take more pains in teaching their children to work in the various pursuits of life.

(6) That the parents seek to make the environments of the home life of such a nature that it may work to the closer union of the young people and the parents.

Ques. 5. What should be the moral standard of the Christian worker in our present age?

Ans. (1) He should be such as to be nonoffensive, so that his work may not be hindered.

(2) He must be willing to "spend and be spent" for the welfare of the cause (II Cor. 12:15).

(3) His life needs to be separate from the world, such as politics, dress, commercial intrigues and evil habits.

(4) He needs to be an example worthy of imitation.

(5) He needs to aim at perfection in all the phases of life.

Ques. 6. Has a congregation a right to form and adopt resolutions to meet the needs of their respective congregation, as long as such resolutions tend to the spiritual welfare and purity of the congregation, and do not interfere with conference rulings?

Ans. As this must be in accord or at least not in opposition to conference rulings, and is to be for the spiritual welfare and purity of the congregation we think that such resolutions are in order (Acts 20:28).

Bro. A. S. Miller of Spencerville, Ind., gave an interesting and instructive talk on **"Joys and sorrows of a minister's life."**

On motion the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Conference, and especially of the other bishops of this Conference, that Bro. Kurtz has been doing good work with the congregation at Grabill, Ind., and we urge that he be retained as having the oversight of that congregation.

Resolved, That we welcome the brethren, L. W. Yoder, Simon Smucker and J. C. Hershberger as members of this Conference and pray that they may be a valuable addition and help in the upbuilding of God's kingdom.

Resolved, That no brother who is an habitual tobacco user be ordained to the ministry or elected as superintendent of Sunday school or young people's Bible meeting.

Bro. Fred Gingerich represented the Western and Bro. Eli Stoltzfus the Eastern Conference at this conference.

Miscellaneous Business

Bro. S. S. Yoder was reëlected as a member of the Sunday School Conference program committee for three years; Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was reëlected as a member of the Publication Board; Bro. J. D. Zook was reëlected as a member of the Ft. Wayne Mission Board; Bro. I. R. Detweiler was reëlected as trustee for the M. B. of M. & C.

Bro. D. J. Johns reported about the work at Manistee, Mich., during the past year.

On motion it was decided that the Manistee congregation be given in charge of Bro. Menno Eash for the ensuing conference year.

The congregation at Barker Street having failed to comply with the decision of last year's Ind.-Mich. Conferences no further action was taken.

Bro. Silas Yoder was elected as delegate to Western Conference.

Bro. D. D. Troyer was elected as delegate to Eastern Conference.

Officers elected for coming year are as follows: Moderator, D. J. Johns; Asst. Moderator, D. D. Miller; Secretary, Ira S. Johns.

The spirit of unity and harmony prevailed during the sessions, and our prayer is that the truths brought out may be made practical in our everyday life.

Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Forks Church, near Middlebury, Ind., June 5 and 6, 1913

Conference opened with song. Devotional services were conducted by Bro. J. K. Yoder of Wellman, Iowa.

After the reading and approval of the minutes of the previous conference the conference sermon was preached by the moderator, Bro. D. J. Johns. Text, Acts 16:4. The bishops, ministers, and deacons present all responded with short and pointed testimonies, after which the congregation by rising expressed their willingness to live out the principles of the Gospel as held forth by the brethren. Forenoon session closed with prayer led by J. S. Hartzler.

Thursday afternoon session opened with song, after which Bro. Menno Eash conducted the devotional services.

At this time the Resolution Committee was appointed which consisted of the brethren, J. S. Hartzler, J. K. Bixler, and S. S. Yoder.

The following subjects and questions were considered and resolutions passed:

Ques. 1. The Church: (a) Her Mission. (b) Her Discipline. (c) Her Authority.

Ans. The Church is a God-ordained institution of which Christ is the foundation (I Cor. 3:11), composed of many members (Rom. 12:5), who are born again (Jno. 3:3, 5) and baptized into one body (I Cor. 12:13) and continue as such (Eph. 4:4-6; Jno. 17:21-23).

Her mission is to carry the Gospel to all the world (Matt. 28:19) to teach the "all things" (Matt. 28:20) and to develop and perfect her members (Eph. 4:12-14).

She has the right of discipline, given by Christ Jesus (Matt. 16:9; Jno. 20:23) even to the expulsion of her members if necessary (I Cor. 5:13).

The Church has authority for her own government (Matt. 18: 16-18) and came to this by rightful inheritance (Matt. 28:18). She may lose her power through neglect (Rev. 2:15), fearfulness (Rev. 21:8), or lack of faith (Jas. 1:6-8).

The Constitution and Discipline of the Conference was read and a number of questions asked and discussed.

Thursday evening a half hour was spent in singing and a few of the brethren giving short talks, after which the following subject was discussed:

The Minister: (a) As a Citizen. (b) As an Evangelist. (c) As a Shepherd.

Friday morning Conference opened with song, after which Bro. J. H. McGowen read Eph. 2, and led in prayer.

Ques 2. What attitude should we as ministers take toward each other in doing work in each others' districts?

Ans. This is a question that may lead to complications. In view of the fact that "we are labourers together with God" (I Cor. 3:9) we believe that one minister going into another minister's field should try to have the full consent of the home minister, "so that the ministry be not blamed" (I Cor. 6:3, 4). This shall not be interpreted that the home minister may retard the welfare of the congregation, the rulings of conference, or the progress of the Gospel.

Ques 3. Encouragement due the ministry from the laity.

Ans. It is due the minister that the laity aid him with their

prayers, heed his teachings, give him words of encouragement, aid him in his temporal work, and under certain circumstances give him financial aid. The laity should see that none of these are wanting, but should realize that much as the true minister may need these he desires much more the fruit of the Spirit in the laity than their coins in his purse "Not yours but you" (II Cor. 12:14; I Thes. 5:25; II Cor. 3:2, 3; I Thes. 2:19, 20; I Cor. 9:7-14).

Ques. 4. What part should a deacon have in granting church letters?

This question was discussed but no resolution adopted.

Reports

The committee on the North Goshen Mission proposition reported.

The committee reported that considering all existing circumstances it was not deemed advisable to establish work there at present. On motion the report was accepted and the committee relieved.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler read the report of the committee on conference union. Following is report in full as given:

The joint committee appointed by the two Indiana-Michigan Conferences, met at the home of Bro. J. S. Hartzler on Feb. 13, 1913, at 10 A. M. After a short session of the separate committees, the two committees met in joint session, and the following organization was effected: J. K. Bixler, chairman; I. R. Detweiler, secretary.

The meeting was then formally opened with a season of prayer.

After a friendly discussion of several hours the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

Resolved, That, until further steps are deemed advisable, we recommend the two conferences be held as heretofore and that all members of both Conferences be encouraged to attend, and take part in discussions in each conference.

Resolved, That we recommend a mutual coöperation of the two Conferences in the mission work of the conference districts.

Resolved, That we as a committee express our appreciation of the mutual fellowship that has existed between the two Conference bodies, and we urge that our members refrain from doing anything that would in any way hinder the progress of this union, and that every member conform to such conditions as will encourage this desirable fellowship.

Names of committees: Ind.-Mich. Conference—Jacob K. Bixler, Jonas S. Hartzler, David Burkholder, John Garber, David A. Yoder; Ind.-Mich. A. M. Conference—Jonathan Kurtz, D. J. Johns, D. D. Miller, A. J. Hostetler, I. R. Detweiler.

On motion the report was accepted and the committee retained for another year.

Bro. Menno Esch reported about the work at Manistee, Mich. All moved away but three families. There were, however, 3 accessions.

On motion Bro. Esch was retained to look after the work for another year.

Total membership of district reported, 1811.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Elections, Appointments and Miscellaneous Business

The Sunday School Conference program was read and on motion was accepted.

On motion the executive committee was instructed to take the work of changing paragraph 3 under (d) on page 14 of Constitution and Discipline, under advisement and if they consider it advisable to make a change they shall send out notices according to Art. 10, page 6.

The question of changing time of conference from first Thursday and Friday in June to first Wednesday and Thursday in June was discussed. Moved and seconded that the change be made. Carried.

The matter of only having one bishop to look after the work at Ft. Wayne was considered.

Ans. Whereas, the Ft. Wayne congregation has so far been under a bishop from each conference, and whereas this does not bring any one bishop in touch with the work as much as is desired, be it,

Resolved, That so far as this conference is concerned we favor that the Ft. Wayne congregation be allowed to choose a bishop.

Bro. John Emmert was elected a member of the S. S. Conference program committee for three years; Bro. I. R. Detweiler was reëlected a member of the M. B. of M. & C.; Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was reëlected a member of the Publication Board; Bro. S. S. Yoder was elected delegate to Eastern Conference and Bro. Menno Esch to Western Conference.

On motion the Rules were suspended and the following committee was appointed to meet with committee of Ind.-Mich. Conference to reorganize the District Mission Board: D. J. Johns, S. S. Yoder, and S. E. Weaver.

D. J. Johns was appointed a member on committee of arrangements for General Conference.

The brethren, D. D. Troyer, I. R. Detweiler, and L. W. Yoder were elected delegates to General Conference.

Bro. J. Y. Hooley was elected Treasurer for 3 years; Bro. D. D. Miller was elected Moderator; Bro. S. S. Yoder, Asst. Moderator; Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

Bishops.—Jonathan Kurtz, Menno Esch, E. A. Mast, J. K. Bixler, J. K. Yoder, J. S. Gerig, John Garber, Moses Mast, D. A. Yoder, D. D. Miller, D. J. Johns.

Ministers.—Eli S. Miller, J. H. McGowen, J. S. Horner, I. S. Hartzler, A. J. Hostetler, E. A. Bontrager, N. Z. Yoder, O. S.

Hostettler, B. B. King, Silas Yoder, Niles Slabaugh, S. E. Weaver, A. S. Miller, I. R. Detweiler, D. D. Troyer, Amos Nusbaum, S. W. Yoder, S. S. Yoder, Josiah Miller, Yost Miller, P. E. Whitmer, Jacob Christophel, Seth Hershberger.

Deacons.—Noah King, Simon Smucker, J. Y. Hooley, M. D. Lantz, J. C. Hershberger, John Emmert, James Mishler, J. J. Wenger, Ira S. Johns.

Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at Clinton Frame Church, near Goshen, Ind.,

Conference opened with song. Devotional services conducted by Bro. David Burkholder by reading I Cor. 3. After prayer and song the minutes of the preceding conference were read and on motion were adopted.

Bro. D. D. Miller preached the conference sermon from Heb. 12:27, 28.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons present all responded with testimonies and expressed their desire to walk close to the principles taught by the Bible and the Church. There were thirty-eight testimonies given. The congregation expressed their willingness to stand for Gospel principles by rising.

Forenoon session closed with prayer led by Bro. J. S. Hartzler.

The devotional services for the afternoon session were conducted by Bro. D. A. Yoder.

At this time the committee on resolutions was appointed consisting of the brethren, I. R. Detweiler, N. M. Slabaugh, and D. A. Yoder.

The following questions were discussed and resolutions adopted:

Ques. 1. Should ordinations be effected without the consent of Conference?

After considerable discussion this question was tabled, and the following resolution passed:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Conference body that no ordination should be effected without the examination of the candidates by a committee composed of the majority of the bishops of the Conference district.

Ques. 2. What attitude should we take in regard to our members attending fairs, etc.?

Ans. Since fairs are dominated by accompanying evils and are thus classed with worldly amusements and since our agricul-

tural schools and agricultural exhibits supply the educational features of the fairs, be it,

Resolved, That we call attention to the rules and discipline under the subject of worldly amusements.

Ques. 3. Reconsideration of Ques. 3 of Conference minutes of 1912.

Ans. Resolved, That the answer to Ques. 3 of Conference minutes of 1912 stand as previously decided with the exception that the clause "also the traveling expenses of ministers sent to smaller congregations" be stricken out, the latter being provided for by the District Mission Board.

Ques. 4. Advisability of our brethren wearing the regulation clothing.

Ans. Resolved, That we advise our brethren to wear the regulation clothing.

The following resolution was also adopted:

Whereas, we recognize the General Conference as the organ of the Church, and that its work is resulting in unifying various conferences and maintaining the principles for which the Church stands, be it,

Resolved, That we ratify the decisions and resolutions of said Conference.

The work of Conference was interspersed by a number of brethren giving ten minute talks on the following subjects:

Encouraging features. J. E. Hartzler.

Making the most of life. A. J. Yontz.

The need of being anchored on the Rock. Menno Eash.

How unify old and young? Silas Weldy.

Don'ts for preachers. J. H. McGowen.

A Prosperous Church—

1. **Things that hinder.** L. W. Yoder.
2. **Things that help.** J. W. Christophel.

How encourage young people to do more mission work? J. K. Bixler.

Some reasons for lean Christianity. A. S. Miller.

Misleading attractions. D. D. Troyer.

Miscellaneous business, reports, elections, and appointments.

The treasurer reported a balance of $55.71.

On motion it was decided to let the treasurer hold the money we expect to receive from the sale of the Manistee church building, subject to the order of the Executive Committee.

The committee appointed to coöperate with a committee appointed by the Ind.-Mich. Fall Conference to organize the District Mission Board reported the work accomplished. The report was accepted and the committee released.

Moved and seconded that we ask the Secretary of the District Mission Board to give an annual report to this Conference. Carried.

The Sunday School Conference program was read and approved.

Report of committee on union of Conferences.

The committee presented the following resolution and on motion Conference adopted it:

Whereas, each Conference has passed resolutions and adopted answers to a number of questions which would be of mutual benefit if placed into the Rules and Disciplines of the two Conferences, and whereas, we believe that it would be of mutual benefit to both Conferences to have the regulations the same, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we the committees appointed by the two Conferences to get out plans looking to the uniting of the two Conferences advise that each Conference appoint a committee of at least three brethren to work conjointly in getting out Rules and Disciplines to be used by both Conferences.

Resolved, That in case either Conference does not appoint such committee that the other Conference committee may revise its Rules and Discipline for adoption at the next regular meeting of said Conference.

Under the suspension of the Rules the former committee on union was appointed to revise the Rules and Disciplines. Committee is as follows: Jonathan Kurtz, D. J. Johns, D. D. Miller, A. J. Hostetler, I. R. Detweiler.

Bro. Menno Eash reported about the work at Manistee. The report was accepted and Bro. Eash relieved.

Bro. Menno Eash reported as delegate to Western Conference.

On motion the moderator appointed a committee of two to designate which churches shall be under the direct charge of a bishop and which should be under the care of the District Mission Board. Committee reported as follows: Howard, Nappanee, Maple Grove, Leo, Fairview, Sunnyside, Middlebury, Forks, Clinton, Goshen. This report was accepted but on motion was reconsidered and then accepted with the exception of Sunnyside.

Bro. Orie Miller was elected as a member of the S. S. Conference program committee for three years.

On motion this Conference adopted the plan of the Fall Conference so that the brethren appointed on the S. S. Conference program committee by both Conferences act as an executive committee for the S. S. Conference.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler was reëlected a member of M. B. of M. & C.; Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was reëlected as member of Publication Board; Bro. C. P. Yoder was reëlected as member of Board of Education; Bro. J. D. Zook was reëlected as member of the Ft. Wayne Mission; Bro. Silas Weldy was elected delegate to

Western Conference; Bro. A. J. Yontz was elected delegate to Eastern Conference.

Election of officers for next conference resulted as follows: Moderator, Bro. Jonathan Kurtz; Asst. Moderator, Bro. Menno Eash; Secretary, Ira S. Johns.

The following bishops, ministers, and deacons were present:

Bishops.—D. D. Miller, David Burkholder, David A. Yoder, J. K. Bixler, Menno Eash, E. S. Hallman, John Garber.

Ministers.—S. S. Yoder, A. J. Hostetler, Eli Stoffer, E. A. Bontrager, J. H. McGowen, Henry Weldy, Silas Yoder, F. W. Nelson, S. W. Yoder, Jonas Loucks, Silas Weldy, N. M. Slabaugh, J. S. Hartzler, Eli Stoltzfus, A. J. Yontz, Amos Nusbaum, E. S. Mullet, I. R. Detweiler, D. D. Troyer, J. E. Hartzler, O. S. Hostetler, A. S. Miller, John Baer, Jacob Christophel.

Deacons.—I. J. Weldy, M. D. Lantz, D. H. Coffman, Noah King, Amos Landis, J. Y. Hooley, Henry Weaver, Noah Weaver, Noah Garber, Ira S. Johns.

Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at Nappanee, Ind., June 2 and 3, 1915

The twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Indiana and Michigan Spring Conference met with the Nappanee (West) congregation on June 2 and 3, 1915.

Conference opened by singing, after which Bro. J. K. Bixler read Col. 1 and led in prayer.

Bro. Menno Esch preached the conference sermon, basing his remarks on I Cor. 3:9, 10. The members of Conference present all gave testimonies and expressed their willingness to strive to build on the sure foundation which is Jesus Christ. Nearly all the congregation responded by rising.

The afternoon session opened by singing. Devotional services were conducted by Bro. N. Z. Yoder of Michigan by reading Rom. 12, and offering prayer.

Committee on resolutions was composed of the brethren, J. S. Hartzler, D. D. Miller, and Silas Weldy.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

The treasurer reported a balance of $83.36. The committee appointed to draft a Constitution, Rules and Discipline reported.

The whole Constitution, Rules and Discipline were read, and then re-read and adopted section by section.

It was decided that this Constitution, Rules and Discipline shall become the rules of government when adopted by three fourths of all the votes cast at the Spring and Fall Conferences

and ratified by a majority of all the votes cast in the various congregations.

The afternoon session closed by singing, and prayer by Bro. E. A. Mast.

In the evening a short deacon's session was held after which Bro. J. K. Bixler discussed the subject, **Elements of Pulpit Power.**

Thursday

Thursday forenoon session opened by singing a few hymns, after which Bro. Silas Yoder read a part of the 119th Psalm and offered prayer.

The Sunday School Conference program was read and accepted.

Bro. S. S. Yoder was reëlected a member of the Sunday School Conference Program Committee for three years.

The Secretary of the District Mission Board gave a report of the work done during the year.

The report was accepted.

At this time the following question was discussed: **Who is eligible to Church Membership?** Discussion led by Bro. A. S. Miller.

Ans. The Scriptures teach that the body of Christ (His Church) is composed of persons born into that body, and as the visible Church is to be as near to this ideal as possible; therefore only those who have experienced a complete change of heart are eligible. Care should be taken not to receive those who are not willing to forsake all for Christ. The bishop who is to receive converts should avail himself of every opportunity to find out the true standing of the applicants.

Thursday afternoon session opened with song, after which the audience repeated the 23rd Psalm in concert and Bro. I. W. Royer led in prayer.

The report of the District Mission Board treasurer was read and accepted.

The committee appointed by the Fall Conference to outline a course of reading for ministers gave a report.

The report was accepted and the committee retained for any further work they may be called upon to do.

On motion it was decided that this committee notify every member of Conference when they get their work ready.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler was reëlected as member of the M. B. of M. & C.; Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was reëlected as member of the Publication Board; Bro. C. P. Yoder was reëlected as member of the Mennonite Board of Education; Bro. J. D. Zook was reëlected as member of the Local Board of the Ft. Wayne Mission.

Bro Silas Yoder gave a report of the work of the Western A. M. Conference.

Bro. D. J. Johns gave a report of the work of the Eastern A. M. Conference.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler was reëlected delegate to Western A. M. Conference.

Bro. D. D. Miller was elected delegate to Eastern A. M. Conference.

Bro. D. J. Johns was reëlected as member of the District Mission Board.

It was decided to elect three delegates to General Conference.

The brethren, S. S. Yoder, L. W. Yoder, and D. D. Troyer were elected as delegates to General Conference.

Bro. D. D. Miller was elected as member from this Conference to arrange work for General Conference.

Bro. J. S. Hartzler gave a pointed discussion of the subject, **Indifference and its Results.**

The committee appointed by the Fall Conference to investigate and formulate some resolutions concerning labor unions offered the following:

Inasmuch as Labor Unions generally are organized for the purpose of bettering labor conditions and protecting the laboring man especially in the city; and whereas, we find some essential differences between Secret, oath bound societies and Labor Unions; and whereas, for some time certain congregations and certain sister Conferences have recognized members in good standing who are members of said Labor Unions; and whereas, our city missions are affected more vitally than any other with this problem; and whereas, we as a committee feel our inability to recommend a final solution, or to define a conclusive position for this conference; therefore be it,

Resolved, That the Indiana-Michigan Conference appeal to General Conference for investigation of this problem.

The report of the committee was accepted and the committee released.

Organization resulted as follows: Moderator, D. D. Miller; Asst. Moderator, S. S. Yoder; Secretary, Ira S. Johns.

The Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held with the Howard-Miami County Congregation, Ind.
June 7 and 8, 1916

(Report of Spring Conference)

The twenty-ninth annual Spring Conference of the Ind.-Mich.

District was held with the Howard-Miami Co. congregation June 7 and 8, 1916. Conference opened with song. Devotional services conducted by Bro. A. I. Yoder, by reading Eph. 4:1-16, and leading in prayer.

Bro. D. D. Miller preached the conference sermon, basing his remarks on Phil. 2:16 in connection with I Tim. 3:15, 16.

Every bishop, minister, and deacon gave a few words of testimony to the sermon and expressed themselves as willing to build on the sure foundation, Jesus Christ. Nearly all the congregation responded by rising.

Forenoon session closed with prayer led by I. R. Detweiler.

Afternoon Session

Opened with song.

Devotional services conducted by Bro. W. B. Weaver, by reading Phil. 2 and leading in prayer.

The moderator appointed the brethren, J. S. Hartzler, D. J. Johns, and J. K. Bixler to act as committee on resolutions.

The minutes of last conference were read and after one correction was made they were accepted.

The following subjects were discussed and resolutions adopted:

Ques. 1. The value and necessity of Conference and Church Rules and Regulations and our duty in observing them.

a. **Of the ministry.** Discussed by D. J. Johns.

b. **Of the laity.** Discussed by Jonathan Kurtz.

Ans. Whereas, men by creation are of different minds, have been brought up under conditions and circumstances and often sincerely disagree and find it necessary to counsel with one another, and, whereas, "Where no counsel is the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14; 24:6) and, whereas, the Apostolic Church found it necessary to confer in order to keep the unity of the Church, be it,

Resolved, That the progress and maintenance of the Church demands,

1. That the ministry be careful to observe the teachings of Scripture and the decisions of Conference—

a. Because unity is essential to the progress of the church, and

b. Because the ministry is to be an example to the flock.

2. That the laity support the ministry in maintaining these regulations and aid in furthering the unity and peace of the Church.

Ques. 2. Modest apparel. Discussed by J. S. Hartzler. The following answer was presented and after a lengthy discussion adopted:

Worldliness in apparel is one of the sins which grows so stealthily that the individual often is not fully conscious of its progress. Regeneration changes the desires and enlightenment will bar encroachment of sin only on condition that the Christian is watchful and the conscience is kept tender.

Modest apparel is a Bible requirement and God's grace enables us to carry this out regardless of time, place, or environment. The position of the Mennonite Church in years past has been that of separation from and nonconformity to the world in attire as well as along all other lines, in later years there has been a gradual drift toward the world in dress. As the minister is to be an example to the flock, and is to make his work as effective as possible, he should be first to show simplicity in dress so that he may the better lead others.

The position of this conference is that the ministry shall wear what is commonly called the regulation coat and shall otherwise keep in the line of separation from the world avoiding offences. All the members shall refrain from conforming to the world; the brethren in wearing gaudy dress, fashionable hats, caps, fobs, etc.; the sisters in wearing insufficient, transparent or superfluous attire.

Further, our position on the sisters' head dress is that they wear only plain bonnets, hoods, (for those who prefer such for winter wear), or veils.

Our interpretation of the plain bonnet, or hood is, one of dimensions and proportions to properly cover the head and fastened with tie-ribbons, and as a whole be such as will not destroy the symbol and purpose for which it should be worn.

On questions which may hereafter arise on the interpretation of any point of this decision, the same shall be left to the bishops' council whose interpretation shall be uniform throughout the conference district, and be final.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons shall stand shoulder to shoulder in carrying out this decision and the interpretation of the bishops' council, and be responsible to conference for the same.

Since this Conference has been asked to state its position as to our sisters wearing hats, be it

Resolved, That we as a Conference declare ourselves as opposed to our sisters wearing hats as a head dress.

Ques. 3. Care of the Neglected Ones.

a. **Spiritually.** Discussed by E. A. Bontrager.

b. **Temporally.** Discussed by J. C. Hershberger.

No resolution on this subject.

Ques. 4. To what extent may we coöperate with interdenominational movements without forfeiting the principles of our faith? Discussed by J. K. Bixler.

Ans. Whereas, many such movements do not coöperate with the Church, and whereas, many of the movements are not in harmony with the Gospel teaching on nonresistance, and, whereas, most of them, if not all of them, tend more toward the world rather than toward Jesus Christ, be it

Resolved, That we advise our people to avoid affiliations with them unless such movements are sanctioned by conference.

Miscellaneous Business

The Sunday School Conference program was read and accepted.

On motion, it was decided that this Conference accept the decision of the last Fall Conference in regard to the Constitution of the Sunday School Conference.

Bro. I. G. Kanagy was elected to serve on Sunday School Program Committee for one year (this being the unexpired time of Bro. Orie Miller who has moved out of the district).

Bro. Raymond Hartzler was elected to serve on the S. S. Conference Program Committee for three years.

Both the Secretary and Treasurer of the District Mission Board gave a report, which were both accepted by conference.

Bro. J. E. Hartzler reported as delegate to Western Conference. Bro. Jonathan Kurtz reported as delegate to Eastern Conference.

Bro. A. I. Yoder, delegate from the Eastern Conference, gave a short talk.

The Secretary gave a report of the vote on the new Discipline. Moved and seconded that this Constitution, Rules and Discipline be declared the rules of government of this Conference District from this day (June 8, 1916).

Report of Conference Union Committee

A meeting of the Conference Union Committee was called by the chairman, Bro. J. K. Bixler, and the following recommendations were passed:

1. That the (Union) Ind.-Mich. Mennonite Conference be declared the successor of the Spring and Fall Mennonite Conferences of Ind. and Mich.

2. That for the present the time of holding the united Conference shall be the first Wednesday and Thursday in June; and that for the present, the bishop and congregational districts remain as heretofore.

3. That the Executive Committee of said Conference shall be as follows: D. D. Miller, Moderator; J. K. Bixler, Asst. Moderator; J. S. Hartzler, Secretary; D. J. Johns and D. A. Yoder.

4. That this committee shall serve from the time that both Conferences have ratified the above recommendations until the close of the first regular meeting of said union Conference.

5. That a conference union committee be retained.

The report was accepted and the committee retained.

On motion it was decided to retain the present officers of Conference until their successors are elected and in accordance with the new discipline two more were elected as members of the Executive Committee. The brethren I. R. Detweiler and Jonathan Kurtz were elected.

The Conference decided to turn the disposal of the Pretty Prairie Church building over to the District Mission Board, the proceeds to be turned over to the General Board.

The Conference Treasurer, Bro. J. Y. Hooley, reported a balance in treasury of $96.85.

On motion the report was accepted and Bro. Hooley was elected to serve until his successor is elected.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler was reëlected as member of M. B. of M. & C.; Bro. Jonathan Kurtz was reëlected as member of the Publication Board.; Bro. C. P. Yoder was reëlected as member of the Mennonite Board of Education; Bro. J. D. Zook was reëlected as member of Local Board of Ft. Wayne Mission; Bro. Raymond Hartzler was elected delegate to Eastern Conference and Bro. D. J. Johns to Western Conference.

Report of Investigating Committee

The committee appointed by the Fall Conference to investigate the Workmen's Compensation Acts of the States of Indiana and Michigan and the effects that such acts have upon the brethren of the Church, both employers and employees, and having been given authority to work out a policy by which our brethren may be protected without violence to the principle held by the Church on the subject of life insurance, beg to submit the following report:

1. After careful investigation of the laws in question, we believe there is a difference between compensation insurance and life insurance. In life insurance physical examinations are required and the party insuring does so for financial benefit. In compensation insurance neither of these are true, but the employer pays his money for the sole benefit of his employees in case of injury or death, the compensation being based wholly upon the pay roll of the employee and the schedule of compensation fixed by law.

2. The advantages of the law are: (1) Since the compensation is already fixed, it prevents dispute, ill feeling and lawsuits. (2) It prevents accidents inasmuch as the Industrial Board and the Insurance companies have regular methods of inspecting the various industries and requiring such changes as may be necessary for the safety of the employees. (3) The method of giving compensation is systematic and secures help to the injured at the very time most needed.

3. The points in the law that we consider weak and unsatis-

factory to our brethren are: (1) It provides for exemption but in so doing takes away practically all points of defence; and (2) there is danger of the employer feeling that in paying his compensation insurance he has fulfilled all his Christian obligations to his employees.

4. Besides investigating the law, we also got reports from the majority of the Mennonite employers as to their pay roll to Mennonites and non-Mennonites, and also those of Mennonites working for non-Mennonites, and we find that the problem is of such a nature that if the church work out some system to protect both its employers and employees, it would necessitate the outlay of more money for protecting non-Mennonites than for members of the Church.

In view of the fact that the law has its advantages as well as what we consider its defects and that the Mennonite General Conference also has a committee working upon this question to report at the next General Conference we therefore recommend that this question be left open until such time as General Conference shall give its decision on the matter.

In the meantime, we advise all employers in Indiana to make provisions for compensation or take out an exemption, for by doing neither our brethren become not only violators of the law and subject to a fine but also violators of scriptural principles.

Signed by the members of the committee: L. W. Yoder, S. L. Nafziger, D. J. Johns, O. P. Grosh, J. K. Bixler.

The report was accepted and the committee released.

Conference decided to place the Goshen congregation under the charge of one bishop and that the Goshen congregation elect delegates to work conjointly with the bishops to select the bishop who is to have charge of the congregation.

Since the people at Middlebury seem to be satisfied with the work of Bro. D. D. Miller it was decided that Bro. Miller be considered the permanent bishop of that congregation.

After a few closing remarks and prayer by the Moderator the conference closed by singing, "Blest be the tie that binds."

The following bishops, ministers, and deacons were present:

Bishops.—D. D. Miller, D. J. Johns, Jonathan Kurtz, E. A. Mast, J. K. Bixler, D. A. Yoder, David Burkholder, Menno Esch.

Ministers.—S. S. Yoder, D. D. Troyer, N. M. Slabaugh, J. S. Hartzler, Aldus Brackbill, J. S. Horner, Silas Weldy, Silas Yoder, J. W. Christophel, Henry Weldy, Amos Nussbaum, Ezra Mullet, Oscar Hostetler, E. A. Bontrager, B. B. King, J. E. Hartzler, L. W. Yoder, N. Z. Yoder, S. W Sommers, I. R. Detweiler, Harvey Friesner, Jonas Loucks, John Baer, A. S. Miller, Raymond Hartzler, J. H. McGowen, W. B. Weaver.

Deacons.—G. L. Bender, Henry B. Weaver, Simon Schmucker, J. C. Hershberger, J. Y. Hooley, Noah W. King, M. D. Lantz, John Emmert, John Lugibill, James Mishler, Ira S. Johns.

Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

INTRODUCTION

For a number of years prior to the year 1917, a number of brethren in both the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference and the Indiana-Michigan Amish Mennonite Conference felt that there really was no need of two separate Conferences.

This feeling grew until each Conference appointed a Committee to look into this matter and work toward the end of uniting the two conferences into one body.

In 1915 a Constitution and Discipline was produced that was accepted by both Conferences, and in 1917 the first United Conference was held at the Clinton Frame Church. The Conference has met annually in June ever since.

The following minutes of the United Conference known officially as the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference with a few corrections, appear as they were published in the Gospel Herald.

With this brief introduction we send them forth on their mission.

Ira S. Johns

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at Clinton Frame Church near Goshen, Indiana, June 5-7, 1917

Tuesday Afternoon

As there were so many things to be worked out on account of this being the first meeting of the united conference, the Executive Committee planned for two sessions of conference at which only the ministry would be present to work out details which would not be interesting to the public.

After several songs Bro. J. S. Hartzler led in prayer.

Roll call, reading of report of the Executive Committee.

The Moderator, Bro. D. D. Miller, appointed the brethren, D. A. Yoder, J. E. Hartzler, and S. S. Yoder, as a committee on resolutions.

Brethren D. J. Johns and D. A. Yoder were appointed representatives of conference on the District Mission Board, and Bro. J. K. Bixler was elected mission superintendent for one year.

Since the District Mission Board meets the day before conference and members of the Board representing the conference would not be elected until after the Board meeting, the moderator appointed Brethren Silas Yoder, B. B. King, and S. L. Weldy a committee to suggest a plan for that election. Decided that the Executive Committee elect them.

Brethren S. S. Yoder, W. B. Weaver, and Aldus Brackbill were appointed a committee to present a plan for the election of officers, members on the various Boards (excepting the ones provided for above). The committee suggested that the Executive Committee appoint a nominating committee of three who shall nominate two brethren for each office and that the election be by ballot as suggested in the Rules and Discipline.

The Executive Committee was asked to make out a budget of expense of conference, and that the treasurer apportion the amount among the various congregations.

Wednesday Forenoon

Prayer by Bro. J. K. Bixler.

The following report of the Conference Union Committee was read and taken up item by item. Decided that the secretary of conference and the chairman of this meeting secure the blanks for ministers' certificates and bring them to the conference.

Inasmuch as a petition was sent in by the deacons requesting a more careful definition of the deacon's work, it was moved that

Brethren Miller, Johns, and Garber prepare an answer for conference.

Decided that for the next year the conference continue its former arrangement of appointing two members on the District Mission Board.

Decided that the resolution on attire adopted by the Spring and Fall conference, with slight changes, be presented to the united conference for consideration. Resolution reads as follows: Worldliness in apparel is one of the sins which grows so stealthily that the individual is often not fully conscious of its progress. Regeneration changes the desires, and enlightenment will bar the encroachment of sin only on conditions that the Christian is watchful and the conscience is kept tender.

Modest apparel is a Bible requirement and God's grace enables us to carry this out regardless of time, place, or environment.

The position of the Mennonite Church in past years has been that of separation from, and nonconformity to the world in attire as well as along all other lines, but in late years there has been a gradual drift toward the world in dress.

As the minister is to be an example to the flock, and is to make his work as effective as possible, he should be first to show simplicity in dress so that he may the better lead others.

The position of the Mennonite Church in years past has been what is commonly called the regulation coat and shall otherwise keep in line of separation from the world avoiding offenses. All the members shall refrain from conforming to the world; the brethren in wearing gaudy dress, fashionable hats, caps, fobs, etc.; the sisters in wearing insufficient, transparent, or superfluous attire. Further, our position on the sisters' head-dress is that they wear only plain bonnets, hoods, or veils (for those who prefer such for winter wear). Our interpretation of the plain bonnet or hood is, one of dimensions and proportions to properly cover the head, fastened with tie-ribbons and as a whole be such as will not destroy the symbol and purpose for which it is worn.

On questions which may hereafter arise on the interpretation of any point of this decision, the same shall be referred to the bishops of this conference district whose interpretation and method of carrying out this resolution shall be uniform.

Bishops, ministers, and deacons shall stand shoulder to shoulder in carrying out this decision and the interpretation of the bishops, and be responsible to conference for the same.

The moderator was asked to get information on the war situation as it affects our church and be ready to give information to those who inquire. Brethren J. K. Bixler and J. S. Hartzler were appointed.

The election of officers for conference resulted as follows: J. K. Bixler, moderator; D. D. Miller, assistant moderator; J. Y. Hooley, treasurer; other members of executive committee (exclusive of the secretary) D. J. Johns and D. A. Yoder. These were elected for one year. J. S. Hartzler was elected secretary for three years.

Ministers' meeting was closed with prayer by Bro. T. K. Hershey.

Conference Proper. Wednesday Afternoon

Bro. J. N. Kaufman read Phil. 2:1-16 and led in prayer.

Conference sermon was preached by Bro. J. K. Bixler. Text, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." This text is found several times in Rev. 2 and 3, and the same thought was uttered several times by the Savior. We are members of the same body, so closely connected that when one does not do his duty the whole body suffers, hence the need of a director. One who would speak thus must certainly have authority. Notice that it is the Spirit which speaks, and it is He that gives gifts as designated in Eph. 4. We are His gift, hence our duty to the Church. The Holy Spirit directs in time as well as in place. He appeared differently to each of the seven churches. It is very important to know that the Spirit is still in the Church. These churches are representative, and somewhere in this teaching all of us may find our portion. All of them were where the trials of the world were upon them. It is so now. The Church is intended to stand despite the trials which Satan may bring upon her.

Balaam was to curse Israel but could not, but he got the children of Israel to marry these heathens and that was the downfall of God's people. When the Spirit led they were united. We may have the name of a united conference, but we may lack the power. Power means harmony of forces. Notice the church of Laodicea. Christ stands on the outside and knocks. That is a sad picture, but no sadder than exists to-day.

Somewhere among these seven churches we ought to find our own Church and profit by the admonition given. This message was sent to the angels, and that doubtless means the bishops. This was with the intention that the bishops should convey it to the churches. The message usually comes through the ministry, and this means a wonderful responsibility. Our messages should be so full of the Spirit that they would bring people to their knees. He who is in the hands of God will be ready to teach

even though none would hear and obey. We need a revival of faith.

We ought to heed the warning note in reference to the doctrine of nonresistance and nonconformity to the world. We need to care for the Church. If we will not be true to this call, He will raise up others who will care for it.

The bishops, ministers, and deacons bore testimony to the sermon. There were present at the conference, 10 bishops, 39 ministers, and 18 deacons, out of the 76 conference members in the district.

The secretary read the report of the work done at the ministers' meeting. After a short discussion the report was approved and the secretary was asked to place the same on the minutes as a part of the conference work.

Bro. J. W. Christophel led in the closing prayer.

Wednesday Evening

This session was devoted principally to relations, the workers' meeting taking up the relations of our experiences, especially those that were helpful to us. Some stirring talks were given and the time seemed all too short. The later meeting took up the relation of the minister to the young people and the relation of the young people to the minister, Bro. O. S. Hostetler discussing the former and Bro. Ernest Stahley the latter.

After several others had added some thoughts, announcements, and prayer the evening session was dismissed.

Thursday Forenoon

Bro. J. S. Gerig of Smithville, Ohio, read Phil. 1:1-14 and led in prayer.

Bro. J. K. Bixler spoke with reference to the Berne congregation near Pigeon, Mich. Brethren Esch and Bixler met two brethren appointed by the Ontario conference and arrangements were completed so that thereafter said congregation was considered as a part of the Indiana-Michigan Conference. Report accepted and committee relieved.

At a recent deacon's meeting the Brethren, G. L. Bender, H. B. Weaver, and I. S. Johns, were appointed a committee to draw up a resolution and present it to the bishops regarding the work of the deacon. The following was presented:

Elkhart, Ind., May 13, 1917.

Whereas, we as deacons feel that our work is not definitely outlined in the discipline, and

Whereas, we believe that the bishops and ministers depend upon the deacons to do certain work and the deacons depend on the bishops and ministers to do the same work, and

Whereas, the Spring and Fall conferences have united, and

since the work of the deacon was somewhat different in the two conferences, and

Whereas, we believe that there should be uniformity of work among us, therefore,

We respectfully request the bishops' counsel to more definitely outline our work.

The bishops appointed Brethren D. J. Johns, D. D. Miller and John Garber to write out the resolution and they presented the following:

Whereas, the deacons have expressed a desire to have their work more definitely outlined, and

Whereas, we realize that there is room for misunderstanding as to their work, and

Whereas, the word deacon in the original means a servant, a messenger, and the office was the first added to the Apostles as helpers when difficulties arise (Acts 6:1-8), and

Whereas, at least some of these became evangelists without any record of further ordination (Acts 1:8), Therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the duties of the deacon are to look after the poor in the church (taking care of the alms money); to endeavor to affect a reconciliation when difficulty arises between members; to assist in the administration of the ordinances, and in pastoral work; and as regularly ordained servants of the Church they have the right to preach whenever called on.

The committee appointed to investigate the signing of a certain church letter for George Lambert reported that they were unable to get the information desired. The committee was relieved and the matter referred back to the Elkhart congregation.

Bro. J. E. Hartzler opened the subject, **Our attitude towards military training**, after which the following answer was adopted:

We believe that civil governments are ordained of God (Rom. 13) and that in the exercise of their proper functions they should receive the support of all Christian people. We believe that as Christians we should be loyal to the Constitution of our land which is based on the principle of civil and religious liberty. We believe that we should have due regard for our national emblem in accordance with our faith and practice. We believe that we should render unto Caesar the things that belong to Caesar, and that we should be subject to the higher powers, obey magistrates, and uncomplainingly submit ourselves to every good work, to gladly serve our fellowmen, relieve the suffering and cheerfully sacrifice the comforts and conveniences of life in order to do service of mercy so long as this is not a violation of the fundamental teaching of Christ on the question of nonresistance. We believe and accept literally the teachings of Christ and the apostles on such statements as, "Love your enemies," "Do good to them that hate you," "Avenge not yourselves," "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal," etc.

Inasmuch as we hold sacred and of vital importance the above

teachings which are also principles set forth in our Confession of Faith adopted at Dortrecht, Holland, in the year 1632 and later ratified in France; inasmuch as our forefathers in Europe suffered because of this principle and were invited to this country on the promise of liberty of conscience and religious freedom; and inasmuch as the Mennonite Church to-day holds sacred and obligatory the same principles of nonresistance and conscientiously believes that we should continue to maintain said principles, whether in time of peace or war, therefore be it,

Resolved, That we, the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference assembled this 7th day of June, 1917, reaffirm our position on the question of war and militarism, and that we humbly petition the proper authorities to duly recognize our religious convictions and that we be permitted to serve God and humanity in such capacity only as will not violate our conscientious obedience to the law of God as interpreted by Christ and exemplified in His life. To this end we plead exemption from all military service. We further plead that our College at Goshen, Ind., an institution under the control and ownership of the Mennonite Board of Education be exempt from introduction of military training. We further plead that our young men be exempt from military training who are in attendance in public schools or other state institutions.

Our opposition to war and militarism is not founded upon cowardice or disloyalty to our Government, but upon the conviction that the Gospel of Christ is a Gospel of peace. We appreciate the kind consideration which we as a Church have already received from those in authority and we shall ever pray for our rulers, that peace may soon be restored and become the joy of our country and the happy lot of nations and that we may continue to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. I Tim. 2:1, 2.

The forenoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. B. B. King.

Thursday Afternoon

Bro. Joseph Coffman of Harrisonburg, Va., read I Jno. 3:1-3 and led in prayer.

The Sunday school program was read and approved.

The committee appointed to investigate the marriage question reported as follows:

Whereas a committee has been gathering facts in reference to the conditions in the various congregations of this conference district in reference to the marriage question, and

Whereas, these investigations revealed facts more serious than were first anticipated, and which need careful consideration: because in some congregations there are very few young people, or

a very large part of them are related, or there are many more of one sex than of the other, and opportunities to choose suitable life companions are very few, and

Whereas, even parents of young people are often inclined to treat the subject very lightly, notwithstanding the fact that marriage is so far-reaching in its influences on life tending to bring happiness and blessings, both spiritual and temporal, or sorrow, trials, and even timely and eternal woe, therefore we recommend,

First, that parents should consider the subject of proper association of their children as a matter of greater importance, never teasing them about the opposite sex, especially in the presence of others, but endeavoring to get their confidence so that they will discuss this question with as much freedom as they would a financial venture; that parents make special efforts to teach the importance and effect of choosing proper associates as well as proper life companions, and where conditions are unfavorable to proper matrimonial choosing, that efforts be made to have their young people attend church and Sunday school conferences, visit in other communities, etc., so that proper acquaintance may be made.

Second, since improper marriages have been a means of many being lost to the Church, leaders should prayerfully and conscientiously study this problem especially in their own community, and give such counsel and advice as may aid young people along these lines.

Third, that the ministry endeavor to work with greater uniformity, (1) in carrying out the suggestions on the subject of marriage as found in the Constitution, Rules and Discipline, (2) that they strive to deal the same way with those who violate said rules as far as practicable.

Report was accepted and the committee relieved.

The report of the District Mission Board was read and accepted.

We, the undersigned committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the District Mission Board to bring recommendations to the annual meeting of the Board and to the Conference as to what the requirements shall be for a congregation under the Board to be considered an independent congregation offer the following:

1. Membership of well indoctrinated brethren and sisters of representative age, a sufficient number of whom shall be real estate holders and satisfactorily located so as to insure permanency. The Executive Committee of Conference shall be the judge in each case as to the number of members and other necessary conditions mentioned in this paragraph.

2. The congregation shall be organized, having a minister, deacon (or visiting brethren), and a Board of trustees.

3. The congregation shall have a house of worship.

4. The congregation shall be financially able to pay all local running expenses of the congregation, including the traveling expenses of the bishop, and their proportionate share of conference expenses.

5. The congregation desiring to become an independent congregation shall petition the Executive Committee of the Mission Board who with its recommendations shall pass the petition on to the Executive Committee of the Conference, who when satisfied

of the ability of the congregation to be self-sustaining shall make such recommendations to conference as will enable that body to take final action on the matter.

J. K. Bixler.
J. S. Hartzler.

Bro. Aldus Brackbill opened the discussion on **Sin of Presumption.** It was not the intention to have a resolution written on this subject but simply to have it discussed.

The question, **What should this united conference accomplish: (1) Within the next year,** discussed by Brethren John Garber and D. J. Johns, and (2) **Within the next decade,** discussed by Brethren J. M. Yoder and Jonathan Kurtz, brought out some lively discussion.

Whereas, our heavenly Father has given grace and wisdom that the two sister conferences in Indiana and Michigan might be united in heart and hand, and

Whereas, we as members of this conference feel greatly indebted to our God for this union, therefore be it,

Resolved, That we manifest our gratitude to Him by making very definite effort to win the lost for Christ, especially those who have fallen away from Christ and the Church; that we put forth efforts to become more united in spirit and work as well as in body; that we have a good wholesome growth in missionary activities which should be manifested by mission volunteers and increased offerings, both for home and foreign fields; that we be a true light to the world and prove the reasonableness of our request for exemption from military service, be it,

Resolved further, that during the next decade we should have a complete blending of our forces; that we encourage the establishing of more home and foreign missions; that we be of service to the brotherhood in determining where the church stands on certain point of doctrines.

Bro. S. S. Yoder gave some excellent points on **How to promote Practical Bible Study.**

The following brethren were elected to the positions connected with their names: Jonathan Kurtz, Mennonite Publication Board; I. R. Detweiler, Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; D. A. Yoder, Mennonite Board of Education; Amos Weldy and J. D. Zook, Local Mission Board of Fort Wayne Mission; B. B. King, J. H. McGowen, O. S. Hostetler, Silas Yoder, S. L. Weldy, and J. S. Hartzler, delegates to General Conference; D. D. Miller, Committee on arrangements, General Conference.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler gave a report of the work of the committee on **Minister's Course of Study.** Report accepted and committee retained.

Next Conference to be held at the Holdeman Church, Wakarusa, Ind.

Prayer by Bro. John Garber.

The first united conference of the two Indiana-Michigan Mennonite conferences has passed into history, and very many were the expressions of joy and praise at such a possibility.

J. S. Hartzler, Sec.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church near Wakarusa, Indiana, June 5, 6, 1918

Conference was called to order by the moderator, Bro. J. K. Bixler. Bro. Jonathan Kurtz read Phil. 2:1-11 and led in prayer.

Elkhart, Indiana, June 10, 1918.

To Whom this May Concern:

Certain charges having been preferred against Bro. J. S. Hartzler, the secretary of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, in his connection with the Board of Education, especially as related to Goshen College, we wish to inform all concerned and interested that Bro. Hartzler voluntarily made a statement before the said Conference asking for pardon which was entirely satisfactory and unanimously accepted, and Bro. Hartzler was asked to retain his position as secretary of the Conference.

(Signed) Jacob K. Bixler,
Moderator of Conference.

Bro. Daniel Kauffman of Scottdale, Pa., preached the conference sermon. Text, I Tim. 6:12 and Eph. 4:3. The following is a synopsis of the sermon. My joy at a united conference instead of a Spring and a Fall Conference. No reason for two organizations. Pray that this spirit of unity may grow until it reaches from ocean to ocean.

The text shows a Christian warfare. We can not overlook the fact that Jesus brought division. A division between righteousness and unrighteousness, between the church and the world. To drop this out of Christianity means defeat. It is a fight of faith. The second text is an accompaniment of the first. We must move together. Earthly differences are caused from not working that way. We must look to higher power, and yet we must ENDEAVOR.

This warfare must be by people who are born again. It can not be carried on in the spirit of unity by any others. We need courage, not foolhardiness. It requires more courage to stand on this basis than to face the cannon's mouth when having another cannon to match it.

We must know the Sword of the Spirit. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be a-

shamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." With this we must have a clear conception of the issues which we face.

Some of the issues.

The war question. The Gospel teaches nonresistance. Christ exemplified His teachings. To draw the line on all war measures is the only satisfactory platform to stand upon. Let us be consistent. If we thought that war was right we should go into it with all our might. If it is not right then draw the line on all war measures. We are in a testing time. Compromise means trouble. Our share of the burden is to bear everything for Christ's sake.

Another issue. Separation from the world. The Bible teaches it. II Cor. 6:14-18. Many other Scriptures. There are two distinct roads, leaders, classes, etc. When we recognize that we are strangers and pilgrims it puts us into the right camp. What is wrong? We do not have a clear conscience and a clear conception. What does God say about dress, jewelry, etc.? We keep our conscience clear on the war question, why not on this point. Why not on all other points?

Another issue. Continual indoctrination. We can not be at a standstill. We need to keep the membership free from all uncleanness. Is there more difference between us and the world than there was a year ago? It should be said of us, "They are moving heavenward."

Another issue. Evangelization of the world. Carry the Gospel to neglected places. It takes work. Every member should get at it. It can not be done by talk alone. We get our power from heaven.

Keep the unity. Make an effort in this. May that spirit be in every one of us.

There being sixty members of conference present besides the visitors, it was not considered practical to have all to bear testimony so the moderator called upon several of the older ones and the visitors from other conferences. The sermon and the testimony showed that the Lord was in that place.

The minutes of the previous conference were read and approved.

The secretary of the District Mission Board gave his report. Report was accepted.

After announcements, song and prayer conference adjourned for the noon hour.

Wednesday Afternoon

After the devotional services Bro. Peter Ropp opened the subject, **The Minister as a Man.** Others also added valuable thoughts. As it was not the intention to have a resolution on

this subject, a few of the thoughts are given herewith. He must be a Christian, a student, a personal worker, an example to his flock, a good mixer, sympathetic. He is human and needs material help, encouragement, correction, enlightenment, and possibly even reproof.

Bro. J. E. Hartzler not being present in the forenoon, made a confession at this time as to charges made against him in his connection with Goshen College and asked pardon of Conference. After several questions were asked by several members of Conference and satisfactorily answered by others, Bro. Hartzler's statement was accepted and pardon granted without a dissenting voice.

Bro. Aaron Loucks of Scottdale, Pa., gave a plan of depositing money in the local banks for local use in lieu of the purchase of Liberty Bonds. Conference passed the following:

Whereas a plan has been submitted to our brethren and acted upon by several of our sister conferences whereby our brethren would be privileged to loan money to local banks for local use only in lieu of purchasing Liberty Bonds, be it,

Resolved, That a committee of three of which Bro. D. D. Miller shall be one, be appointed to work conjointly with brethren appointed by other conferences to work out the details of said plan, or to find a better plan and submit their findings to the brotherhood of this conference as soon as possible. Decided that the moderator appoint other two. Brethren S. S. Yoder and J. S. Hartzler were appointed.

Report of the Executive Committee of Conference was given by the secretary.

Bro. J. S. Hartzler gave a report of the committee appointed to give out information to brethren in the draft. Report was accepted and the committee (Brethren, J. K. Bixler and J. S. Hartzler) was retained.

The afternoon session was closed by song and prayer.

Wednesday Evening

After a song service, a workers' meeting, and a season of prayer the remainder of the evening was devoted to the discussion of **The Work of the Holy Spirit.** (1) In Conviction, by Bro. Amos S. Cripe; (2) In transforming men's lives, Bro. J. S. Horner; (3) In enabling for service, Bro. Menno Esch. Many good thoughts were presented.

Thursday Forenoon

Bro. A. S. Miller conducted the devotional services after which the subject, **The Mennonite Church** was discussed under two heads: (1) Her mission in the present crisis, discussed by Bro.

G. J. Lapp; and (2) Preparation for the future, by Bro. Daniel Kauffman. The resolution committee presented the following which was adopted. The Mennonite Church, in accepting the teachings of Jesus Christ, has accepted the task of bringing the Gospel to all the world. The present crisis presents untold opportunities for service and possibilities for reflecting the principles of Jesus Christ in the life and service of our people.

Our preparation for the future should include the following: (1) A life of watchfulness, prayer and consecration on the part of every member; (2) The setting in order, according to the wish and will of the Lord, of every home; (3) Wholesome discipline that reaches every congregation, every member; (4) Indoctrination of all our members; (5) Special care and instruction and training of our young people; (6) Faithfulness in maintaining an attitude of complete separation from the world, so that it may be faithfully said of all members that they are not entangled with the affairs of this life; (7) A rigid adherence to the entire Gospel of Christ, without compromise with sin in any form.

The Elkhart County Council of Defense requested time to explain the needs of the Red Cross. Was decided that they might have 20 minutes. Mr. S. F. Spohn spoke more than that length of time. He then asked that Rev. Harmon be given a little time. It was granted. They asked for our attitude. No promise was given. The time was so nearly taken up that it was decided to dismiss for the noon hour.

Thursday Afternoon

After the devotional services, the nominating committee gave a partial report and asked to be permitted to announce the names for only one office at a time. Request was granted.

The new Constitution and By-laws of the District Mission Board were read, corrected and approved.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of $117.43 in the treasury. Report accepted.

On motion it was decided that this conference go on record as favoring placing the White Cloud congregation under the District Mission Board, subject to a three-fourths vote of the congregation.

A report of the Sunday School Conference committee was given by Bro. E. S. Mullet. He read the proposed program for the next conference. Report and program was accepted.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler gave a report of the committee on Minister's Course of Study. The report was accepted and the committee relieved. It was suggested that this be discussed at the next conference.

The subject, **Christian Purity** was discussed by Bro. I. R.

Detweiler. The resolution committee presented the following which was adopted: The pure life is not only abundantly taught in Scripture but held forth as essential to Christian life and fellowship. Matt. 5:8; II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14-16. It is important that Christian purity be taught and practiced in the home, in the social circle, in business life, from the pulpit, by Christian workers wherever they go. Among the sources of impurity which should especially be taught against are impure literature, improper conduct during courtship, filthy talk, the theater, immodest apparel, impure associations, etc. The heart is the fountain head of purity and impurity (Matt. 15:11, 17-19) and Christian people should use their life and influence in favor of keeping the mind and heart fed and filled with things that are pure. Phil. 4:8.

The place for the next conference is to be chosen by the Executive Committee.

The following was the result of the election: Moderator, J. K. Bixler; Assistant Moderator, D. D. Miller; Treasurer, J. Y. Hooley; other members on the Executive Committee, D. J. Johns and D. A. Yoder; Trustees: for the Mennonite Board of Education, S. E. Weaver; Mennonite Publication Board of Missions and Charities, D. J. Johns; Members of Local Board of Fort Wayne Mission, J. D. Zook and Amos Weldy.

Resolutions

Whereas, the following brethren have been duly ordained to the ministry: Ray Yoder, Claude Culp, Royal Buskirk, Alfred Wideman and Ernest E. Miller, and to the office of deacon Simeon Martin, during the last conference year, be it,

Resolved, That we as members of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference do heartily welcome them as members of this body, and pray that God may richly bless them and use them to the upbuilding of the Church. Resolution adopted.

Whereas, certain officials representing the Council of Defense of Elkhart County, Ind., asked permission to present their views concerning our duty toward the support of the war measures, which permission was also granted, and

Whereas, said officials desired a statement of our position from this body, therefore be it

Resolved, That we express our appreciation of their consideration in presenting their views, and desire that on all questions arising from war conditions an understanding may be reached which will be satisfactory to powers that be, in national, state and municipal affairs, and which is not in conflict with our nonresistant faith; and be it further

Resolved, That since these problems are being worked upon by a committee appointed by several of our conferences (including

this one) the solution of such questions be referred to this committee with the hope that said committee may have something to report to us at an early date.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the document on the war situation as prepared and adopted by the Mennonite General Conference held at Yellow Creek Church, Aug. 29, 30, 1917, and hereby express the hope that all our members give that paper their loyal support.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of Conference be empowered to represent this conference before any Council of Defense calling for an expression from this body.

Resolved, That as soon as the plan referred to in resolution two is completed the secretary of Conference shall give full information to the Council of Defense of Elkhart County.

With many thanks to God for His presence and for the spirit of unity which prevailed, conference adjourned.

J. K. Bixler, Moderator.
J. S. Hartzler, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Middlebury Church, May 28, 29, 1919

Wednesday Forenoon

Bro. Henry Rychener of Pettisville, Ohio, read Rom. 12 and led in prayer. The secretary of the Conference then read the minutes of the previous meeting, the report of the work of the Executive Committee during the year, and the report of the churches. All these were approved. The report of the churches showed 28 organized congregations and several stations, 11 bishops, 42 ministers, 26 deacons, and a membership of 3617. Of these 11 bishops, 35 ministers (to this should be added the 4 visiting ministers from other conferences), and 17 deacons were present at the conference at least part of the time.

Bro. Jonathan Kurtz preached the conference sermon, using as a text I Cor. 3:9, with special reference to II Cor. 6:1. He said in part: The child of God is a new creation, made like unto his Master. That brings us into fellowship with Him and with one another. This can not be brought about by God Himself, regardless of the fact that He is all powerful. Neither can man do it. Both must work together. Man must consent to let God do it. By this union, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, a great work can be done.

We need to study to show ourselves approved unto God and to preach the Word. Reformation always follows regeneration,

and that must be based on the Word of God. This is the best kind of reform. In our church government we are too apt to let go too much until things begin to go down hill and then we want to suddenly apply the brakes. This is an unfortunate way of leading the Church. Let us pull steadily together and pull all the time. We need to be separate from the world. God and the world are opposite in their natures, and we can not love both. We want to walk with Him, and how can two walk together except they be agreed?

In all our preaching, Christ should be the central figure. This means separation from the world in business, in dress, in everything. Israel made a mistake by making a league with the Gibeonites when they "asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord." We need to know our Bibles. There we can get much counsel from Him.

We should strive to make Christ known to the world; to those who know not God. If the energy spent in trying to get the brethren and sisters into line as they should be, could be devoted to the furtherance of the Gospel, how much more could be done. May we make special progress along the line of furthering His kingdom.

Following were the testimonies of the ministry and a declaration of the laity that they would try to aid the ministry in aims set forth in the sermon and the testimonies. This was shown by a rising vote in which the congregation arose en masse. The forenoon session closed with prayer led by Bro. Henry Weldy.

Wednesday Afternoon

The afternoon session was opened by Bro. Amos Horst, Ephrata, Pa., who read II Pet. 2 and led in prayer. As not all the testimonies were given in the forenoon, these were completed at this time.

For several reasons it was thought best to elect officers for the ensuing year on the first day of the conference, hence that was done immediately after the testimonies, and resulted as follows: Moderator, D. A. Yoder; Assistant Moderator, Menno Esch; Treasurer, Henry Weaver; Members of the Executive Committee, J. K. Bixler and D. D. Miller; Trustee of the Mennonite Board of Education, D. A. Yoder; Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, J. S. Hartzler; Mennonite Publication Board, Sylvanus Yoder; Members Fort Wayne Local Mission Board, J. D. Zook and Amos Weldy; Delegates to General Conference, Y. C. Miller, J. H. McGowan, D. D. Troyer, S. L. Weldy, O. S. Hostetler, A. S. Miller; Member on Committee of Arrangements for General Conference, D. D. Miller.

The first subject on the program was, "Losses and Gains to the Mennonite Church from the World War," discussed by Bro. George J. Lapp. The following are a few of the many good points given: Among the losses are the increased burdens for the missionaries on the field, and for the administration of the Boards at home; losses by mails and transportation; the moral odium of the war in non-Christian eyes. We lost the right to ignore the convictions of our young brethren when it comes to adopting or maintaining church policies. In some places there were losses by some becoming entangled with socialistic theories, not conducive to the strengthening of the orthodox faith.

He gave more gains than losses, of which the following are only a few: Organizations to alleviate suffering; decided increase in the missionary offerings in the last four years; we gained a knowledge of our strong and weak points as parents and relatives to the draftees; we discovered more of the potential powers of our young manhood; we had opportunities to make our faith known because of the publicity having been given to the Church; we gained a greater faith in God, a better knowledge of God's Word, and a deeper work of piety.

Bro. S. L. Weldy opened the subject, **The proposed reconstruction of religion.** The subject brought forth considerable discussion and a great deal for our consideration. The resolution committee asked for more time in order to frame a resolution covering the discussions and were asked to present their answer in the next forenoon session. Prayer by Bro. J. W. Christophel.

Wednesday Evening

Bro. J. W. Hess of Manson, Iowa, led in the devotions after which the subject, **"Compulsory Military Training,"** was discussed under two heads: "Methods and effects upon civilization," presented by Bro. J. S. Hartzler, and "The Gospel attitude," ventilated by Bro. D. D. Troyer. A military machine is a menace to the peace of the world; there are two general systems discussed, the Swiss and the Prussian; because of conditions, if this country adopts any, it will be the Prussian system with modifications which are finally to lead to it almost completely; preparations for war, means war; military training a very poor defense; and does not tend to obedience to law and order; it promotes immorality and brutality, and is not an economic means of physical development. It is contrary to the scriptures which teach peace, love, harmony, urges kindness to enemies, and construction instead of destruction. Jesus was a man of peace and we are to follow in His steps. The spirit of military training and Jesus Christ are exactly opposite. Bro. B. B. King led in the closing prayer.

Bro. Caleb Winey, Peabody, Kans., read Heb. 1 and led in prayer. The treasurer of the Conference, the treasurer of the District Mission Board, the secretary of the Board, and the secretary of the Sunday School Conference Committee, gave their respective reports, all of which were accepted.

The Resolution Committee presented a resolution for the subject left over from the day before, as follows: Realizing that the present spirit of religious unrest and dissatisfaction in many lands with past forms of religion, demand redoubled effort on the part of the Christian Church, and that in an effort to meet this demand, fundamentals are apt to be sacrificed for coöperation, and believing that only the religion of Jesus Christ can satisfy the needs of the human soul, be it,

Resolved, That we declare allegiance anew to the faith for which our Church has always stood, praying the spirit of wisdom to guide into all truth; and be it, further

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to greater efforts in carrying the message to those who know it not.

Bro. J. W. Christophel opened the subject, **Essentials for making the present ministry more efficient,** to which the following resolution was attached: Being conscious of our need of greater efficiency in our ministerial work, be it,

Resolved, That we earnestly seek to comply with the injunction of the Apostle Paul, "Make full proof of thy ministry" (II Cor. 4:5). 1. By being tactful, "Wise as serpents and harmless as doves;" 2. By giving ample time to the study of, and labor in, the field; 3. By praying fervently for the guidance of the Spirit. 4. By earnest study of the Word that we may preach it in plainness and simplicity.

That we show ourselves worthy of the material and spiritual support of the laity in the realization of this ideal.

The subject, **Worldliness the fruit of wrong thinking,** was discussed by Bro. N. M. Slabaugh. A few of the many good thoughts are presented herewith. God knows our hearts and recognizes evil and foolish thoughts as sin. Wrong thoughts are overcome by close thinking of right thoughts. We have no right to reason along forbidden lines. Some think that to be well dressed they must be fashionably dressed which often means to be quite too scantily dressed. When we think in the business terms of the world, we act like the world. More meditation on God's law would prevent much of the wrong thinking, hence prevent much of the worldliness.

The Executive Committee was asked to get out order blanks so that no bills be paid except by an order signed by the mod-

erator and secretary. The forenoon session was closed by song and prayer.

Thursday Afternoon

Bro. R. A. Buskirk read Rev. 22 and led in prayer, after which the Resolution Committee offered the following resolutions which were adopted.

Believing that regular ministerial meetings are helpful, be it,

Resolved, That for convenience the conference district be divided into three ministerial districts to be known as the Western, Eastern, and Northern districts; the Western to include the congregations west of Goshen, the Eastern those east of Goshen, and the Northern those in Michigan, excepting Barker Street, which is to belong to the Western district. Brethren Johns and Eash chairmen of the Eastern and Northern districts respectively.

Resolved, That we repeal the former resolution which provides for a nominating committee to arrange a ballot for election of officers, and that we vote by ballot from which only those who have a majority of the votes cast shall be elected. In the event that none of the candidates have a majority, a second ballot shall be taken for the highest two of each office.

In accordance with a petition sent from the Midland (Mich.) congregation a committee (Brethren D. D. Miller, Jonathan Kurtz, and J. S. Hartzler) was appointed to investigate and if possible adjust some difficulties in the congregation.

Decided that the Executive Committee should decide place for the next conference.

Decided that the question of the minister's reading course be tabled.

Bro. I. R. Detweiler discussed the need of expository preaching and gave an exposition of Phil. 2:5-8.

The business of the preacher is to interpret the Word of God, and apply it to the problems in his congregation. The Word never changes and its teachings are never out of date. The interpretation and applications depend on the problems and conditions of the individual. This is shown in the present and past attitude toward missions, etc. This makes preaching a serious task.

Sermon defined.

Every sermon must have a plan, a definite purpose, unity of thought, and may be topical, textual, or expository.

The text yields nicely to an expository sermon. Theme. Extreme humiliation of Christ.

Introduction. Was written near close of Paul's life. He was in prison, and his brethren at Philippi could not understand how he consistently remained there, for to them a hero was such be-

cause he overcame his enemies. If Jesus is at the right hand of God, why can not Paul exercise this power? Cf. Jno. 5:18.

The experience of Jesus used to help people understand Paul's experience. Must have the mind of Christ. This is the place to start in an understanding of his text.

1. What He did? Gave up His glories, but not His divinity. When He put on flesh He lived as though He was not God. He took on the attributes of the race.

2. How He did it. Did not hold His equality with God ambitiously, but lived as though He did not possess this.

3. He died as the meanest of criminals. Gentiles considered it most cruel death, by the Mosaic law cursed. Suffering in intense humility. Paul's experience no comparison.

Application. Real wealth is more than property, social standing, education, or official position. It is richness of soul. When one feels his importance because he has any of these, his soul grows lean. "When saw we thee——."

Treasurer's Report

On hand June 6, 1917	$117.43
Received during the year	60.00
Total	$177.43
Bills paid	120.14
Balance	$ 57.29

The reports of the secretary and treasurer of the District Mission Board may be seen in the report of the Board.

The closing prayer of the Conference was offered by Bro. D. J. Johns. These were blessed days, full of inspiration, good teaching, and good interest, and best of all, days in which the Holy Spirit was manifest in comforting, guiding, and filling. The Lord be praised for His blessing and care over us.

J. K. Bixler, Moderator.
J. S. Hartzler, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Olive Church near Elkhart, Indiana, June 2 and 3, 1920

Wednesday Forenoon Session

Called to order at 9 o'clock by Moderator, D. A. Yoder. After singing several songs, Bro. J. M. Kreider read I Cor. 4 and led in prayer.

Moved, that since Bro. J. S. Hartzler, the secretary could not

be present, Bro. J. K. Bixler act as secretary in his absence. Carried.

Conference sermon was preached by Bro. S. S. Yoder instead of Bro. J. W. Christophel who had been appointed to that work but asked to be excused for physical reasons. Text, Gal. 5:3. "By love serve one another." He said in part: "The Christian Church of the first century had to solve the problem of harmonizing the belief and practice of the Jewish and Gentile elements of the Church. The Jews tended to drift into formalism and became cold and stringent; the Gentiles, through the liberty of the Gospel, to give license to sin. Paul in his letter to the churches of Galatia condemns both extremes and calls upon the brethren to give a life service prompted by the spirit of love.

"Jesus emphasizes both love and service in His teaching and living. Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:30, 31; Matt. 25:31-36. Paul says that love is the greatest of the abiding virtues. John emphasizes love one for another.

"The program of Jesus was to heal the blind, lame, and sick; to raise the dead to life and preach the Gospel to the poor. Matt. 11:5. From all parts of the world comes the cry for help. We must feed, clothe, shelter, and visit as well as preach the Gospel. Both the exclusive preaching and the socializing, fail. We dare not close our eyes to the physical and social needs of humanity, but we should never forget that they are secondary to the preaching of the Gospel. The needs of the soul are of the greatest importance, but accompanying these are the physical, intellectual, and social needs. They demand our investigation and labor of service, but never to the neglect of the great need of salvation.

"A declaration of love is worth nothing unless it is expressed by a life of sacrifice and service. John 14:15, 23. Service given, not through love, will avail nothing. I Cor. 13:3. Real love and service can be rendered only by those who are consecrated to God, and are free from worldliness and sin."

There being a large number of bishops, ministers, and deacons present, it was not considered advisable to have all of them add their personal testimony. Several were selected who each gave a short talk. The remainder of the ministry and the congregation as a whole, by a rising vote, expressed themselves willing to remain loyal.

The minutes of the last conference and the report of the work done by the Executive Committee during the year were read and accepted.

Closing prayer by Bro. E. A. Bontrager.

Wednesday Afternoon

After several songs Bro. A. C. Brunk read Phil. 2:1-11 and

led in prayer. B. B. King, S. S. Yoder, and R. L. Hartzler were announced as committee on resolutions. The secretary's roll shows that sixty of the eighty-one members of conference were in attendance. Visiting ministers present were, Brethren J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.; P. J. Shenk, Oronogo, Mo.; J. W. Hess, Manson, Ia.; D. D. Miller, Kalona, Ia.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer of the Mission Board were read and approved.

Ques. 1. "What constructive steps should this conference take now?" Discussed by Brethren I. R. Detweiler and Aldus Brackbill.

Resolved, That our goal for the coming year will include a deeper consecration on the part of the Church, and a steady growth in gaining lost souls to Christ. To accomplish this we adopt the following constructive steps: A gain in financial gifts, in membership, in Sunday school enrollment, in the establishing of new Sunday schools, the ordination of ministers and bishops, the sending of missionaries into the field, more efficient missionary training, a closer coöperation between Church and Sunday school conferences, the ministry supported to a larger extent and more teaching of the Bible to our children in the home and the Church.

Moved, That the special session of conference called for Friday, June 4, 9 A. M., be held on Thursday evening at 4:30 P. M.

The following petitions from the Mission Board were read and approved:

1. Since the rural mission work has grown, and since there is only one bishop now located in Michigan, be it,

Resolved, That the Board petition Conference to ordain a bishop to assist the Superintendent of the rural mission work in his bishop duties, and that the secretary of the Board present this resolution to conference.

2. Resolved, That the Board urge the Conference to take steps to ordain more ministers to be available for needy fields.

The subject, **"The place of the minister and the bishop in disciplinary work,"** was opened by Bro. D. D. Miller. Because of lack of time the subject was left over for the next day.

Closing prayer by Bro. Miller.

Wednesday Evening

An interesting workers' meeting was conducted by Bro. B. B. King, from 6:30 to 7:15; subject, "Winning Forces in Soul Winning."

Devotional services conducted by Bro. Jonathan Kurtz, who read Psa. 27 and led in prayer.

The subject, **"Essentials for a successful pastorate,"** was discussed by the four brethren whose names appear with the sub-

topics assigned: (1) Consecrated life, J. M. Kreider; (2) Studious habits, S. P. Martin; (3) Sympathetic nature, Jonathan Kurtz; (4) Spiritual power, C. C. Culp. Many good thoughts were brought out which, no doubt, caused some pastors to feel a greater need of a life completely surrendered to God.

Closing prayer by Bro. Y. C. Miller.

Thursday Forenoon

Devotional services by Bro. J. W. Hess, after which the work of the previous day was taken up.

It was decided that no resolution be adopted in connection with the question left over, but that a few thoughts which were brought out in the discussion should be given: "Discipline is as necessary in the Church as in a well regulated home. Lack of it in the home begets greater need of it in the Church. This means that some rules are necessary. In the execution of such rules, lack of unity and coöperation are as disastrous in the one institution as in the other. This calls for close coöperation between bishops, ministers, and deacons. Each must help. This is not the work of any one to the exclusion of the other."

Bro. J. S. Hartzler reported on the work of the committee sent to Midland, Mich. All the evidence was collected and considered by the committee who rendered a decision which gave general satisfaction and has since worked well. Report accepted and committee relieved.

The next subject, **Sanctification**, was discussed by Bro. D. J. Johns. "Primarily Sanctification means to set apart for sacred use. Gen. 2:3. The Lord sanctified the seventh day. God knew Jeremiah before he was born, and sanctified him and ordained him a prophet. Jer. 1:5. It is in part the work of man. 'Sanctify yourselves.' Num. 11:18. It carries with it the thought of consecration. Josh. 3:5. We are able to sanctify the Lord in our hearts. I Pet. 3:15. Here it presents the thought of glorifying Him. To sanctify always bears with it the idea of purity. Jesus prayed, 'Sanctify them through thy truth.' Obedience is a factor in sanctification. I Pet. 1:22. Jesus gave Himself for the Church. 'That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing.....holy and without blemish.' Let us therefore go on, 'perfecting holiness in the fear of God.'"

Moved and seconded that the Executive Committee should decide on the place for the next meeting of conference. Carried.

It was decided that the moderator should appoint a committee of five brethren, with power to act, to work with the S. S. Conference Committee in the purchase of a tent.

After song and prayer, conference adjourned for the noon hour.

Thursday Afternoon

Bro. J. F. Funk read Psa. 103 and led in prayer.

"Nonconformity from a layman's viewpoint," was discussed by Bro. Wellington Young. This was followed by many very pointed and practical talks from the laity. The subject was well covered, and seemed to be the more interesting because it was all done without any of the ministry having any part in it.

During the noon hour, both days of conference a number of deacons met at the home of Bro. Irvin Long for an informal meeting for the purpose of getting better acquainted and exchanging ideas and hearing each others' experiences. At one of these meetings the following was adopted:

Realizing the great responsibility of the bishops, we as deacons desire to give expression of loyalty to them, and by God's grace we mean to stand by them faithfully in service to God and to the Church.

J. Y. Hooley,	John Emmert,	A. S. Landis,
D. H. Coffman,	M. D. Lantz,	Menno J. Yoder,
J. J. Mishler,	Frank Maust,	Joseph Mishler,
H. A. Miller,	I. S. Johns,	H. B. Weaver,
Sam Smeltzer,	Menno Steiner,	Albert Wyse.
Jonas Brubaker,	S. P. Martin,	

Resolutions presented aside from those connected with assigned subjects were as follows:

Since God through the Church has called the brethren, James Bucher and Albert Wyse, to the offices of minister and deacon, respectively, be it

Resolved, That we welcome them as members of this conference.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed representing the following interests: The Sunday School, the Young People's Meeting, the District Mission Board, the Educational Interest and the Executive Committee of Conference to investigate and formulate plans for greater work and a closer coöperation between the various organizations represented by this committee. Both these resolutions were adopted. The committee called for in the last resolution is as follows: The Sunday School, S. S. Yoder; the Young People's Meeting, Elmer Christophel; the Mission Board, S. L. Weldy; the Educational Interests, W. B. Weaver; D. J. Johns, Executive Committee of Conference.

The committee chosen to act with the S. S. Conference Committee in the purchase of a tent were: J. K. Bixler, B. B. King, D. H. Coffman, H. B. Weaver, J. O. Martin.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Moderator, D. D.

Miller; Assistant Moderator, D. A. Yoder; Treasurer, H. B. Weaver; Secretary, J. S. Hartzler; other members of the Executive Committee, D. J. Johns and J. K. Bixler. Member on the Mennonite Board of Education: D. A. Yoder; member on the General Mission Board, J. S. Hartzler; members on the Local Board of Fort Wayne Mission, J. D. Zook and Amos Weldy.

The Secretary's report showed that there were living in the district, eleven bishops, forty-four ministers, and twenty-six deacons of whom all except four were members of Conference; that there were thirty-two regular places where services are being held; that there was a net gain in membership in the last year of one hundred sixty, making a total membership of three thousand, seven hundred seventy-eight. There were in the district, in the last year, two hundred two confessions of which fourteen were not from our Sunday schools, and only seven who had not attended any Sunday school regularly. The number of pastoral visits reported exceed those of any previous year. Sixteen congregations held a mission day and some of them more than one. Most of these mission days were of three sessions each.

Of the seventy-seven members of conference, sixty-two were in attendance all or part of the time. The interest was good through all of the sessions and the work was of such a nature that it was profitable, especially for those present.

At three o'clock the ministry adjourned to the home of Bro. I. S. Long for a ministerial meeting to which all the members of Conference were invited. Bro. J. W. Hess of Manson, Ia., preached a good sermon to those who remained.

D. A. Yoder, Moderator.
J. S. Hartzler, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at the Maple Grove Church near Topeka, Indiana, May 31 to June 3, 1921

(The work done in private session will be given in connection with that which was done in open session as some sessions were short and interspersed with committee work.)

Conference proper began on Wednesday evening. After several songs the moderator asked for a number of scripture verses. Many very appropriate passages were given, bringing a worshipful spirit into the meeting. Bro. D. J. Johns led in prayer.

Bro. J. W. Christophel preached the conference sermon, using I Tim. 4:16 as a basis. He drew a word picture of two boys, one a very bad one, the other well behaved. He said that we can

usually expect to find something in the home which helped to make the difference. Home training is a great factor, and was manifest in Timothy. His mother and grandmother helped to lay the foundation for a good Christian character. He later became a good Christian worker, greatly helping Paul in spreading the Gospel. He worked with Paul a long while and doubtless was under his teaching much of the time. Yet when Paul realizes that he is nearing the end he gives to Timothy this special advice, "Take heed to thyself." This is very important. We can not help others unless we are right ourselves. He urges that, with equal care, he takes heed to the doctrine. This takes in the whole plan of salvation. Paul well knew the temptations that would come to him. By taking heed to both himself and the doctrines, the first keeping him out of temptation and the latter keeping his mind along right lines, he could become a power in bringing in others. Because of this Paul says, "For in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

Our salvation is in Christ only, but if we wish to retain the true principles of the Gospel we must give that Word to a dying world. May God help us to hold up Christ and His doctrines to the world and there will be results. Sinners will be converted, saints be built up, and the kingdom of God be enlarged upon earth.

Because of the large number of ministers present it was thought best to select a few to give testimony instead of having all to do this. Bishops Jonathan Kurtz, D. J. Johns, J. K. Bixler, and Menno Esch and the ministers, S. S. Yoder, O. S. Hostetler, and Henry Weldy gave testimony to the sermon and added many good thoughts.

The subjects discussed and the resolutions of the resolutions committee follow:

Ques. 1. Farmers' federations and kindred organizations was discussed by Bro. C. A. Shank and others.

Resolution: Whereas we recognize the danger of becoming "unequally yoked together with unbelievers," entangled in legislation, led into violence, kept from properly helping the needy and fostering commercialism, be it,

Resolved, That we advise our brethren to refrain from joining Farmers' Federations and all kindred organizations having in their membership, unbelievers. I Cor. 6:14; Phil. 3:4; I John 3:17; Matt. 6:33.

Ques. 2. Exposition of Eph. 4:3 in the light of present conditions, was opened by Bro. D. D. Troyer. It was not the intention to have a resolution on this subject, but to have it for those present, hence the committee presented none.

Ques. 3. The ministry's duty to acquire an accurate knowledge of the administrative work of the Church, opened by Bro. S. L. Weldy.

Resolution: The ministry should make an effort to understand the duties and responsibilities of the administrative officers that they might the more intelligently pray for them and coöperate with them whenever possible, and further to enable them to properly instruct the young people of their congregations that they might the better appreciate and support the administrative work of the Church, and also enable them to intelligently choose their life work.

The Resolution Committee also presented the following:

Whereas, our Heavenly Father in His wisdom and love has, during the past year, removed from our midst two brethren, G. L. Bender and J. C. Hershberger, deacons in the Church and active members of this conference, and,

Whereas, we miss and no longer have the benefit of their counsel and encouragement, be it,

Resolved, That we as a Conference hereby express our sympathies to the bereaved families.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the families of our departed brethren.

The brethren, Bishop J. D. Birky, ministers Moses Steiner, Clyde X. Kauffman, and George H. Summer, and deacon Oliver P. Grosh were welcomed as members of this conference. Bro. Birky is laboring with the congregation at Kouts, Ind.; Bro. Steiner was ordained at Fairview, Mich.; Bro. Kauffman ordained and sent to the mission station at Brutus, Mich.; and Bro. Summer moved into the district and is in charge of the congregation in Gratiot County, Mich., near Ashley. Bro. Grosh was ordained at Elkhart, Ind.

Brethren D. J. Johns, Jonathan Kurtz, Menno Esch, S. L. Weldy, and J. S. Hartzler were chosen a committee to consider the dress resolution passed several years ago, and bring their suggestions to Conference. Their report was presented and the revised resolution is as follows:

Worldliness in apparel is one of the sins which grows so stealthily that the individual often is not fully conscious of its progress. Regeneraton changes the desires and enlightenment will bar the encroachment of sin only on condition that the Christian is watchful and the conscience is kept tender.

Modest apparel is a Bible requirement and God's grace enables us to carry this out regardless of time, place, and environment.

The position of the Mennonite Church in years past has been

that of separation from and nonconformity to the world in attire as well as along other lines. In later years there has been a gradual drift towards the world in dress.

As the minister is to be an example to the flock and is to make his work as effective as possible, he should be the first to show simplicity in dress so that he may the better lead others. The position of this conference is that the ministry be requested not to wear neckties. They shall wear what is commonly called the regulation coat, and shall otherwise keep in the line of separation from the world, avoiding offense. The bishops shall not ordain any one who refuses to comply with this position and request.

The membership has gone entirely too far in conformity to the world; the brethren in wearing gaudy dress, fashionable hats, caps, fobs, gold chains, flashy ties, etc., and in fashionable hair cuts; the sisters in wearing insufficient, transparent, or superfluous dress, and in fashionable hair combing. This conference urges a specific change toward simplicity in the brotherhood. We believe that it would be an advantage if our brethren would wear the plain coat and we encourage them to do so.

Further, our position on the sisters' head dress is that they wear only the plain bonnet or, for winter wear, the hood, veil, or plain plush or velvet cap without rim or trimmings. We plead for the plain bonnet or hood of such proportions and dimensions as to properly cover the head and fastened with tie ribbons, and as a whole to be such as will not destroy the symbol and purpose for which they are worn.

On questions which may hereafter arise on the interpretation of any point of this decision, the same shall be referred to the bishops of this conference district whose interpretation and method of carrying out this resolution shall be uniform.

Bishops, ministers, and deacons shall stand shoulder to shoulder in carrying out this decision and the interpretation of the bishops and be responsible to Conference for the same.

The educational problem was discussed at some length. The brethren, D. J. Johns, Jonathan Kurtz, O. S. Hostetler, H. B. Weaver and D. H. Coffman were asked to attend the meeting of the Mennonite Board of Education, to confer with the faculty and to visit the school and bring a report of their findings to the next conference. A motion was passed urging the Mennonite Board of Education to do its utmost to see that its policies are put into practice at Goshen College.

Last year a committee of five was appointed representing the following interests: The Sunday School, S. S. Yoder; the Young People's Meetings, Elmer Christophel; the District Mission Board, S. L. Weldy; the Educational Interests, W. B. Weaver; and the

Executive Committee of Conference, D. J. Johns. A report of their work was given and the following was given as their recommendation to conference:

We, the undersigned brethren appointed as a committee to represent five activities of the Church, the conference, the educational work, the mission work, the Sunday school and the young people's and Bible meetings have the following recommendations to offer for your consideration:

We recommend the establishment of Bible normals in various churches throughout our conference district.

2. We recommend that a standing committee of three be elected—one for a term of three years, one for two years and one for one year. This committee is to represent one from the Executive Committee of Conference, one from the Bible department of Goshen College, and one from the District Mission Board. Their work shall consist in—

a. To encourage the holding of Bible normals.

b. To find places for such Bible normals to be held.

c. In coöperation with two members elected by the congregation where said Bible Normal is to be held to arrange the course of study to be pursued and to secure instructors for the same.

3. We recommend that the Sunday school conference be held in connection with the Church conference, that these five activities be represented, and at least one session be given to each.

Signed, S. S. Yoder, Chairman,
S. L. Weldy, Secretary.
D. J. Johns,
W. B. Weaver,
Elmer Christophel.

These recommendations were approved, the report accepted, and the committee retained. This Committee was asked to appoint the committee called for in their report and with the Executive committee of conference they shall get out the programs for the meetings called for in the recommendations.

The tent committee appointed last year purchased a tent conditionally. Conference passed the following:

Since this conference appointed a tent committee in annual session in 1920 and authorized it to purchase a tent, and

Since the tent delivered at Topeka, Ind., for acceptance does not, in the mind of said committee and of this conference, correspond with the contract signed by the firm from which it was purchased,

We, the Indiana-Michigan Conference in annual meeting assembled, unanimously advise that said tent be returned to said firm according to contract.

A letter containing this resolution was signed by the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Secretary and given to a member of the committee.

Election resulted as follows: Moderator, J. K. Bixler, Assist-

ant Moderator, D. A. Yoder; Treasurer, H. B. Weaver; D. D. Troyer and D. J. Johns, members of the Executive Committee; J. W. Christophel, member on Publication Board; J. S. Hartzler, Mennonite Board of Mission and Charities; D. A. Yoder, Educational Board; I. G. Gnagy and Abner Holdeman, Local Board of Fort Wayne Mission; D. D. Miller, Committee on Arrangements for General Conference; Delegates to General Conference, C. A. Shenk, S. L. Weldy, N. M. Slabaugh, O. S. Hostetler, Ray Yoder, B. B. King, and S. S. Yoder.

The treasurer's report showed a balance in the treasury of $110.96.

There was some money held over which was left from the monthly allowance for the boys in camp. This is to be turned over to the Mennonite Publication Board to aid in putting up the new building. Amount $153.34.

The report of the secretary of the District Mission Board was read and approved. That report contained the following: Moved, That this Board recommend to the Conference the appointment of a committee to investigate the advisability of locating Bishop Troyer at Midland, Mich., which committee together with the Executive Committees of the Conference and the Board, shall decide this matter. The committee appointed for this work was: Menno Esch, R. L. Hartzler and Silas Yoder.

It was decided that the same committee should investigate the necessity and advisability of sending ministerial help to Elmdale, Mich., and with the Executive Committee of Conference decide, and if thought advisable, decide on whom to send.

A petition having come from the West Market Street Mennonite Church at Nappanee to have both congregations placed under one bishop, a committee consisting of Brethren S. S. Yoder, D. H. Coffman, and Henry Weldy was appointed to thoroughly investigate the conditions and with the Executive Committee work out a plan and submit to both congregations.

Our position is that no one should be received into Church fellowship who uses tobacco, or (if he does use it) refuses to give it up.

Bro. C. W. Leininger, secretary of the Sunday School Conference gave a report of his work and read the program for the coming conference. Program and report were accepted.

The following petition was read: A group of choristers assembled at the Indiana-Michigan Sunday School Conference assembled near Elmdale, Mich., believe that the service of song at the hour of public worship could be more effective for God's kingdom. It seems that those who have responsibility laid upon them are more concerned about their obligations. Would it not be

wise to elect a Church chorister and perhaps an assistant in each congregation?

We hereby suggest that the executive committee consider the question and if thought the right time to do so, ask the conference for recommendations regarding this part of the Lord's work.

The petition was signed by thirteen choristers.

Moved and seconded, That Church choristers are helpful and that we recommend the appointment of some one in each congregation who shall have the oversight of the Church music. Carried.

Bishops present, 13; Ministers, 37; Deacons, 18; Total, 68.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held at Yellow Creek Church near Goshen, Indiana, June 8, 9, 1922

Devotional services were conducted by Bro. J. S. Shoemaker who read Eph. 4 and led in prayer.

Bro. E. A. Mast preached the conference sermon, using as a basis, I Cor. 3:11. The following are some of the many good thoughts presented:

The text deals primarily with the foundation, and defines it. Jesus Christ Himself is the foundation. The foundation is the first part of the building that is put up. We must dig to solid bottom. It must be built of the right kind of material. This is a tried foundation. Efforts have long been made to destroy this foundation; it can never be destroyed. No use to fight against God's plan. The foundation is sure. The enemy knows this, and he is trying more now to destroy the building proper. This building is the Church. He tries to sow dissension and discord and thus lead them away. The divisions in the Church showed Paul that at least many of the members were carnal. Paul, Cephas, and Apollos were builders on the foundation but were a poor foundation to build on. Christ is to the believer what the foundation is to the building. Believers are God's building. We should daily think whether our structure is according to the word and will of God. Some build of the right kind of material and some use the wrong kind. The latter shall at least lose the result of his labors. This is the time to build. To-morrow we may be in eternity. We need have no fear of that change if we have built with the right kind of material. Position will make no difference. "One shall be taken, the other left." We need to be awake and alive to our opportunities.

Testimonies to the sermon were given by the visiting ministers and by three brethren from this conference district. Among the

latter were the two old veterans of the Cross, Brethren, J. F. Funk and David Burkholder, both long past the four score years.

The congregation bore testimony by a rising vote.

The minutes of the last conference were read and approved. The congregation was dismissed for the noon hour with a benedictory prayer by Bro. S. C. Yoder.

Thursday Afternoon

After a song service, Bro. Menno Esch read I Cor. 13 and he and Bro. C. A. Hartzler led in prayer. The roll call showed that there were present 13 bishops, 34 ministers and 15 deacons from the Conference district besides 9 bishops and 5 ministers from other conference districts. Others came after roll call.

Brethren, O. S. Hostetler, A. D. Wenger and S. W. Sommer were appointed a resolution committee.

The appointment of a certain committee to adjust difficulties was left to the bishops of the conference district.

Bro. Silas Yoder ably discussed the subject, **Church Government.** The open discussion also brought out quite a number of good thoughts. As the resolution committee was not ready to report, some business was taken up.

All visiting bishops, ministers, and deacons were accorded the right of discussion, and Brethren, Wilbur Miller, J. S. Neuhouser, and Amos Weldy were welcomed as members of conference.

The Secretary of the District Mission Board read his report and it was approved.

Some of the decisions and actions of the Board required action by Conference. No. 3 required the appointment of a committee to work out some system of properly providing for the traveling expenses of parties attending Conference, Board meetings, etc. This Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee. Action 4 was a petition to Conference calling this body to provide for a Fundamentals and Missionary Conference some time during the year. This was amended by adding, "If satisfactory arrangements can be made."

The afternoon session was closed by prayer by Bro. L. J. Miller.

Friday Forenoon

The devotional services consisted of songs, scripture reading (Eph. 1) and prayer. Bro. J. M. Shenk read Eph. 1, and he and Bro. J. M. Kreider led in prayer.

The resolution committee read a resolution on Church Government. There seemed to be a general approval of the thoughts

brought out in the resolution but Conference passed the following instead of the resolution:

An Appeal to General Conference from the Indiana-Michigan Conference

The question of Church Government was discussed by this conference, but because the question is so far-reaching, and is hardly within the scope of one District Conference to define, we appeal to General Conference for a definition and plan of Church Government.

The treasurer's report of the Tent Committee was read and approved and the committee excused. Report showed $14.40 in the treasury to be turned over to the Conference treasurer. Brethren Earl Miller, Lenden Pletcher, and William J. Hoover were appointed a committee to care for the tent. All expenses incurred to be paid by the Conference.

Bro. C. C. Culp discussed the subject, **Worldliness, What Is It?** Bro. J. H. Bare, the subject, **Worldliness, Its Manifestations.**

Resolution

Resolved, That in the light of the Scriptures, we interpret worldliness to mean any conduct of life which is in accord with the will of Satan and contrary to the will of God; that it manifests itself in the love of money or false doctrine; in any of the seventeen "Works of the flesh—and such like." Gal. 5:20, 21; I Tim. 6:3-5 and 10; Jas. 1:27, 4:4.

Bro. J. W. Christophel reported regarding the work near Elmdale, Mich. Report was accepted and the excusing or retaining the Committee was left to the Executive Committee.

The committee appointed last year to look into the educational problem gave a report of their work, but it was found that by an oversight part of the work assigned had not been done. The committee was asked to complete its work and report at the next conference.

Prayer by Bro. Aaron Loucks.

Bro. Y. C. Miller conducted the devotional service with scripture reading and prayer.

The Coöperative Committee whose duty it was to look after the various interests of the Church as they affected each other, gave the following report:

The Coöperative Committee appointed by Conference met at Science Hall, Goshen, Ind., at which time the election of a standing committee was effected as follows: D. A. Yoder from the Executive Committee of Conference, elected for three years; S. L. Weldy of the Executive Committee of the District Mission Board for two years; and W. B. Weaver of the Bible Department of Goshen College for one year. Beginning of said Committee to be June 15, 1921.

We have the following recommendations to offer:

That the present plan of holding conferences be continued; That the expenses of said meetings be paid through the budget of the Church Conference; That the Local Board of Goshen College make arrangements for the educational program of this Conference.

The report of the Committee was accepted and recommendations 2 and 3 were adopted at once. No. 1 was discussed at some length. It was finally decided to try the plan for another year. This committee was excused but later it was found that there was still some work for the committee to do and they were reappointed.

The following was the report of a meeting of choristers:

To the Mennonite Church Conference at Yellow Creek, June 8, 9, 1922: We, the choristers assembled at the Sunday School Conference June 7, 1922, feel a deep need of further training and study to make our work more efficient for His kingdom.

We believe that a special choristers' normal would help greatly.

Does this Conference sanction such normals for our song leaders? Will this Conference not create a committee or authorize some Committee or Board now acting for the Conference to arrange for this work?

The discussions which followed showed that the general sentiment was that such normal should be held in connection with Bible normals, and the work was referred to the Coöperative Committee.

The Conference Treasurer's report showed a balance in the treasury, June 8, 1922, of $350.86.

Resolved, That this Conference body express its sincere thanks to Mr. M. C. Schrock of Goshen, Ind., for providing us with light during the evening sessions without any expense to the Conference.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to Mr. Schrock by the Secretary.

The election of officers resulted as follows: D. A. Yoder, Moderator; D. J. Johns, Assistant Moderator; H. B. Weaver, treasurer; D. D. Troyer and J. W. Christophel, members of the Executive Committee; D. A. Yoder, member of Mennonite Board of Education; J. S. Hartzler, member of Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; J. B. Moyer, Mennonite Relief Commission; I. B. Gnagy and Abner Holdeman, members of Fort Wayne Local Mission Board.

Closing prayer by Bro. A. D. Wenger.

J. S. Hartzler, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Holdeman Church near Wakarusa, Ind., June 7, 8, 1923

Thursday Forenoon

The services were opened with song after which Bro. Chris. Reiff read I Cor. 3:9-23 and led in prayer.

The call of the roll showed that there were eighty-one members of Conference. Of these sixty-four attended Conference all or part of the time. The minutes of last Conference were read and approved.

The Conference sermon was preached by Bro. Silas Yoder, using as basis the first part of Deut. 33:27 and Heb. 12:28. Theme, "The Unchanging Kingdom." He said in part: We should not be discouraged even if things do look dark at times. God has a great reserve power for the use and help of His children. We have a sure foundation. Even the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. It is a great privilege to be a part of that great kingdom. We get into that kingdom by translation, Col. 1:13: "Who ....hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." This does not mean a time of ease.

There is a great battle on between the powers of Light and darkness, and we are in the thickest of the fight. We can not triumph without the new birth, the direction of the Holy Spirit, and a knowledge of His Holy Word.

We place much emphasis on secular education, and it is of great value, but it can never take the place of the presence and guidance of His Holy Spirit. Man in himself is a failure, but with the power of God in his life he knows no defeat.

Other kingdoms rise and fall, but this new kingdom will never crumble. It will continue throughout eternity. It is a refuge. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Many want to be members of that kingdom but do not want to pay the price. Liberalism, skepticism and many other "isms" must be conquered and the price is great. They are the enemies of that kingdom. We must stand for a whole Gospel. It is not liberalism or doubt that wins. We and even those away from Christ want a whole Gospel if they want any."

Visiting ministers and several members of Conference were called on for testimony after which all members of Conference were given an opportunity to endorse the thoughts of the sermon

by standing to their feet. Later the congregation was given the same opportunity.

Decided that we send 6 delegates from Indiana and 2 from Michigan to General Conference; that the congregations be asked to send to the treasurer of Conference an amount of money equal to 10 cents per member. Votes were then cast for these delegates in order that they might be counted during the noon hour.

Thursday Afternoon

Bro. J. M. Shenk read II Peter 3 and Bro. B. B. King led in prayer.

The Moderator gave an explanation of the Church on general principles, introducing the following statement which had been formulated by 11 representative men from the ministry and laity and which was read by the secretary:

We, a committee appointed by the Executive Committee, wish to submit the following to the Indiana-Michigan Conference for consideration:

That resolutions concerning dress and life insurance passed by Conference be more strictly enforced.

That any member of the ministry who fails to help in teaching and disciplining in these and other regulations of Conference shall be interviewed by the bishop and shown his fault. If he will not submit the bishop shall report him to the Executive Committee who shall ask such minister for an interview with the Committee which shall do all in its power to win him but if he will not yield, then said Committee shall declare him as silenced from his ministry until he gives satisfactory evidence that he will support the regulations of Conference. The Executive Committee shall report the results of its interview with such brother to the congregation.

Sisters who wear hats or members who carry life insurance shall have one month's time for consideration. In case they will not conform to the rules and regulations of Conference they shall be visited and admonished, and if they still refuse, they forfeit their church membership, and the congregation shall be informed of such forfeiture.

A long discussion followed. The moderator called for a season of prayer before the vote was taken. On motion and second the statement was adopted as a regulation of Conference. There were 60 members of Conference present at that time of which 53 voted in favor.

After this the brotherhood was asked whether they would help to carry out these regulations, and if so, they should manifest it by standing. With few exceptions they arose to their feet.

Bro. D. D. Miller spoke on, **The need and value of doctrinal teaching, How shall it be done?** This was ably discussed. It was not the intention that there should be anything passed on this in the form of a resolution but the committee wrote out some

of the thoughts presented. The following was read and approved: We hold the teaching of Christian doctrine to be important and necessary, because—

1. It is commanded. Matt. 28:19, 20; II Tim. 4:1, 2; Eph. 4: 11, 12.

2. It enables the child of God to live the sinless life. Psa. 119:11.

3. It brings the knowledge of experienced workers and teachers to the aid of others. Neh. 8:8; Acts 8:31.

4. It is essential to keep people in touch with God and His Word. Isa. 28:9-13; I Tim. 4:16.

5. It promotes unity. Eph. 4:3, 13.

6. It is a part of the equipment for service. II Tim. 2:15.

We encourage the faithful teaching of God's Word in the home, in the Sunday school, in the young people's meeting, wherever there is opportunity. It should be taught by parents, teachers, preachers and other Christian workers—the teaching to be adapted to the condition and needs of those who are being taught. Care should be exercised that the spirit as well as the letter of the Word be taught. We encourage our people to send their children to summer Bible schools, also to patronize heartily our Bible conferences, short term Bible schools, and other means of instruction and indoctrination, on condition that the instructors chosen are sound in faith and consecrated in life as well as "apt to teach."

The afternoon session was closed with prayer by Bro. J M. Shenk.

The evening session was devoted to discussions of subjects pertaining to young people's meetings.

Friday Forenoon

Bro. M. C. Lehman read part of John 15 and led in prayer.

The Secretary read a report of the congregations. The report was accepted.

The Secretary of the District Mission Board read a report of the work of the Board during the year. The report was accepted and the recommendations in the report were taken up one by one and approved. The report will not be given here for want of space as the work of the Board will be found in its printed report. The recommendations will be noted.

(1) This recommendation referred to the part that the Board and the part the Conference should pay of traveling expenses attending Conference Board meetings and committee meetings. The recommendation was passed as presented.

(2) This recommendation referred to some suggested clauses to be placed into deeds made by the District Mission Board to

congregations declared to be independent. While the general plan was endorsed, the wording may require some changes to make the proceedings legal. Hence the wording will not be given here.

(3) Whereas the Hopewell congregation at Kouts, Ind., has met the conditions required by Conference for dependent congregations becoming independent, therefore be it

Resolved, That this Board recommend her for acceptance as an independent congregation.

(4) A similar recommendation was made in reference to the Bethel congregation near Ashley, Mich., provided that it is acceptable to the congregation.

(5) The Board asked that a Fundamentals and Mission Conference be held somewhere in the district if satisfactory arrangements can be made.

(6) This recommendation asked that the Conference take up the matter of electing Mission Superintendent and Conference member on the Board. It was decided that the Executive Committee of Conference, in correspondence with the bishops of the District, should elect.

As the recommendation for a Fundamentals Conference was approved, it was suggested that any congregation wanting the Fundamentals Conference should inform the Executive Committee to that effect and save much correspondence for the committee.

A committee of five brethren, called Coöperative Committee, was appointed to represent the various interests of the Church and aid in getting these interests to work together, and had appointed Bro. Daniel Kauffman of Goshen College, D. J. Johns of the Executive Committee of Conference and S. L. Weldy of the District Mission Board to plan for Bible normals. The following is the committee's report:

We, the undersigned committee, beg leave to submit the following:

After considering the former action of Conference, together with apparent present needs, it was decided to endorse the holding of about two Bible normals, night schools, with about two sessions each week, one east and the other west of Goshen. Neither of these night schools was organized.

D. J. Johns,
Silas Weldy,
Daniel Kauffman,
Committee.

Report was accepted.

The subject, **Spiritual life, what is it? How manifested?** was discussed by Brethren S. W. Sommer and N. M. Slabaugh. The resolution committee copied some of the thoughts presented, as follows: Spiritual life must be of God. It can not be produced by education, culture, or any other power of earth. As the eter-

nal life in the soul, it has its origin in the new birth. Jno. 3:3, 5. When we speak of spiritual life we speak of the life of those who are possessed of the Spirit of God. Those possessing it shine in the image of God. The following are evidences of spiritual life:

1. Reverence for God and His Word.
2. Obedience to the commandments of God.
3. The fruit of the Spirit flowing out through daily life.
4. Walking in the Light as Christ is in the light.
5. A faithful witnessing for Christ.
6. A sinless life.

Bro. B. B. King spoke on, **The need of teaching nonresistance in times of peace.** The resolution committee presented the following which was accepted by Conference: Nonresistance is love in action. It is not cowardice, but a scriptural manifestation of real Christian manhood. When Christ said, "All they that take the sword, shall perish with (not by) the sword," He disarmed every person bearing His name. Christian people, according to the teachings of Christ and His disciples, are commanded to love their enemies, forbidden to engage in carnal warfare and instructed to—

1. To pray for our enemies.
2. To refrain from the use of the law against others.
3. To make no compromise with the world.
4. To do good to our persecutors.
5. To wage spiritual warfare against sin.
6. To suffer wrong rather than inflict violence upon others.
7. To remember that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal."
8. To abstain from taking vengeance.
9. To maintain within the heart "the peace of God which passeth all understanding."

On motion the delegate body of the Sunday School Conference asked the Church Conference to have the S. S. Conference and the Church Conference at different times of the year instead of having them together. The Conference decided that the conferences should be held separately.

Silas Weldy, Silas Yoder, B. B. King, Clarence Shank, N. M. Slabaugh, and Ray Yoder, of Indiana, and C. C. Culp and E. A. Bontrager, of Michigan, were elected delegates to the General Conference.

The election of officers resulted as follows: D. A. Yoder, Moderator; D. J. Johns, Assistant; I. S. Johns, Secretary; H. B. Weaver, Treasurer; O. S. Hostetler and J. W. Christophel, Members of the Executive Committee of Conference; Abner Holdeman and Alonzo Miller, Fort Wayne Mission Local Board; D. A.

Yoder, Mennonite Board of Education; J. K. Bixler, Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; J. W. Christophel, Mennonite Publication Board.

Reports and Resolutions

Resolved, That we welcome as members in full standing in this Conference the following brethren who were ordained since our last meeting: J. Z. Birky, deacon, Kouts, Ind.; Daniel Oyer, deacon, Ashley, Mich. Also that we give recognition to the following who had already been conference members. Oscar S. Hostetler, bishop, Topeka, Ind.; Menno J. Yoder, minister, Topeka, Ind.

Inasmuch as it has pleased our heavenly Father to remove from our midst by the hand of death, our brother and co-laborer, Bishop David Burkholder, be it,

Resolved, That we humbly submit to His will though we keenly feel the loss of Bro. Burkholder's helpful counsel in conference deliberations.

Furthermore, That it is the sense of this Conference body that in his death the Church in general, and at Nappanee in particular, has sustained the loss of one whose efforts were divinely blest, and who firmly stood for Gospel faith and practice.

Resolved, That we extend our sympathy to the bereft family and that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of Conference.

Report of Coöperative Committee

We recommend that this Conference place itself upon record, petitioning the Educational Board to endeavor to arrange for a continuance of Goshen College for the coming year, provided that in the judgment of the Board, it be possible, under existing circumstances, to maintain a school at Goshen under an administration and faculty that is in complete harmony with the doctrine and standard of the Mennonite Church, with the policy of the Board, and with the discipline of the Indiana-Michigan Conference.

Report of Barker Street Committee

Brethren D. J. Johns and B. B. King

"We had a meeting with the Barker Street congregation and Bro. Bixler at the Barker Street Church for the purpose of effecting a reconciliation, having the parties face to face, but in this we failed. We reported to a joint session of the Executive Committee of Conference and the Executive Committee of the Mission Board, and the committee was enlarged by adding the brethren, D. A. Yoder, J. W. Christophel and Edward Martin. Bro. Christophel not being able to serve, Bro. D. D. Troyer served in his stead. Another appointment was made to meet with the Barker Street congregation, but on account of sickness and storm the committee could not get there neither were they able to get word

to them of their failure to meet them. The congregation met and drew up a resolution that they desired not to have any such meetings. Consequently Bro. Bixler was interviewed and wrote out a statement that was accepted by both the committee and the congregation. Bro. Oesch was also interviewed and finally asked what was required of them to bring about a reconciliation. Therefore the committee drew up a statement for Bro. Friesner to sign, one for Bro. Oesch, and one for the congregation. Bro. Friesner signed his without change but Bro. Oesch and the congregation changed theirs to their own wording but were accepted by the committee and Bro. Bixler. But on the same day that these statements were signed, their petition that Bro. Bixler should not serve as bishop of their congregation was renewed. Therefore this committee fails to recognize a full reconciliation."

D. J. Johns,
B. B. King,
D. A. Yoder,
D. D. Troyer,
E. F. Martin,
Committee.

Report accepted and committee retained.

It was decided that the Young People's Conference Committee be allowed the use of the tent for the Young People's Conference without charge.

After a season of prayer Conference adjourned. These were strenuous days with Sunday School Conference, Mission Board meeting and Church Conference for four continuous days with a number of committee meetings between sessions. May the Lord bless the work.

J. S. Hartzler, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN AMISH MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Held with the Leo Congregation near Grabill, Ind., June 4, 5, 1924

The services were opened with song after which Bro. J. B. Smith of Elida, Ohio, conducted the devotional by reading Jno. 17, and leading in prayer.

The minutes of last Conference were read and approved.

Bro. O. S. Hostetler preached the conference sermon. Text, Eph. 4:1.

We are to give our time because God has led us here regardless of money remuneration or honor.

We are not here to seek an easy time, but because of a conviction that we have a work to do that is not of man but of God.

I. **The Call.** What is it? That which presents an appeal from another. The call means this to a minister; leave **all** that thou hast and come and follow **Me.** The call may come to us in

different ways or along different lines; maybe in the stillness of the night, maybe in the field, maybe in a religious meeting. There are two calls mentioned in the Word: (1) The call from sin, (2) the call to service.

II. The first business of the Lord's servants is to show the world that without Christ they are lost. Second, to hold before them the redeeming power of Christ. Third, to preach the Word for the perfecting of the saints. There are some pleasant and some unpleasant tasks to be done. We need to exercise rule, and however unpleasant "purge out the old leaven." When we refuse to do these unpleasant tasks we fail to carry out the King's business.

III. The worthiness of the call. A few things that show our worthiness: (1) Of honest report; (2) Full of the Holy Ghost and familiar with His workings; (3) That we exhort, etc.

IV. We should meet the issues fairly, squarely, and fearlessly according to the Word of God; by the help of the prayers of the brotherhood. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Following the sermon the following brethren gave testimony: Jonathan Kurtz, Menno Eash, D. D. Troyer, J. S. Horner, J. H. McGowen, Alfred Weidman, Clarence Shank, Moses Steiner, Perry Heller, Amos Weldy, Albert Wyse, J. Z. Birky, J. I. Weldy, David Garber, C. F. Derstine and D. A. Yoder.

The ministers who were not called on to give testimony orally gave their testimony collectively by rising to their feet.

Forenoon session closed with prayer led by Bro. J. M. Shenk.

Wednesday Afternoon

The afternoon session opened with singing and scripture reading by A. S. Cripe, who read Jno. 14, and led in prayer.

There were three ministers ordained during the Conference year; viz., Perry A. Heller of the Fort Wayne Congregation, Allen Christophel of the Yellow Creek Congregation, and Ira S. Johns of the Clinton Frame Congregation. By motion they were welcomed and received into the Conference as members.

Resolution Committee: J. S. Hartzler, N. M. Slabaugh and C. C. Culp.

The report of the congregations was given by the Secretary.

The report of the work of the Executive Committee during the conference year of 1923—1924 was read and approved.

The congregation by a rising vote gave expression of their approval of the work.

The subject, **The work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer,** was discussed by Bro. Menno Eash.

The following statement was prepared by the resolutions committee and was adopted by Conference:

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to abide forever (Jno. 14: 16); to dwell in us (Jno. 14:17); teach, bring to our remembrance (Jno. 14:26); reprove the world of sin (Jno. 16:8); guide, speak that which He hears, show us things to come (Jno. 16:14); imparts love (Rom. 5:5; I Cor. 13).

The wisdom which He imparts is from above, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits. What a comfort! No wonder He is called "the Comforter."

The Secretary of the District Mission Board gave a report of the work of the Board during the year. The report was approved. (This report is on file with the Secretary.)

The treasurer's report was read and approved. It showed a balance in the treasury of $123.73.

Bro. O. S. Hostetler gave a brief report stating why there was no Fundamentals Conference held during the year.

The subject, **Christian perfection**, was discussed by Bro. J. K. Bixler. The following was adopted by Conference.

1. We need to distinguish between absolute perfection and our positional relation in Christ (I Jno. 1:8, 10). No one is absolutely perfect.

2. We should distinguish between the standing and the state of the believer.

The standing.	The state.
I Cor. 6:11	I Cor. 6:7
Col. 1:12, 13	Col. 3:8, 9

3. The divine order is to state our position in Christ first, then make our life (state) conform as near as possible with that position.

Position.	Experience.
Matt. 5:14	Matt. 5:16
Eph. 5:8 (1st clause)	Eph. 5:8 (latter clause)
Gal. 5:25 (1st clause)	Gal. 5:25 (latter clause)

4. There is a relative perfection, illustrated by a child being perfect yet not mature or developed.

5. Christians are constantly being perfected for Christian work and established in Bible doctrine, and Christian unity and the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. This is done daily through the Spirit (Heb. 10:20, 21), by the Word (II Tim. 3: 16, 17), by submission to God (Jas. 1:4), and by suffering (I Pet. 5:10).

6. Finally, Christians will be entirely without fault or blemish when Jesus comes. I Jno. 3:2; Jude 24.

Afternoon session closed with prayer led by D. D. Miller.

Wednesday Evening

Evening session opened by singing a number of songs after which Bro. C. F. Derstine read Rev. 3, and led in prayer.

The first subject for the evening was **The Minister an Ambassador,** by Ray F. Yoder.

The Emma Congregation asked for the privilege to ordain a deacon. This request was granted.

The ministry of the Clinton Frame Congregation asked for the privilege of ordaining a deacon provided the congregation desires it. This request was also granted.

The Sunday School Conference program was read and approved.

The second subject for the evening was **Bible Separation,** discussed by Bro. Royal A. Buskirk.

The evening session closed with prayer led by Bro. David Garber.

Thursday Forenoon

Thursday morning session opened with song. Bro. Andrew Brenneman of Elida, Ohio, led the devotion by reading Eph. 1 and leading in prayer.

The following resolution was then presented:

Be it Resolved, That we heartily endorse the position upheld by our last General Conference on the questions of Education, Modernism, Nonconformity to the world and Church government: further, we request all ministers to read and explain these decisions before their congregations in order to put them into actual practice.

This resolution was adopted.

The following subject was discussed: **The Christian Home**—(1) **The Parents,** by David Garber; (2) **The Children,** by N. M. Slabaugh.

The resolutions committee prepared the following statement, which was adopted by Conference.

1. To have a Christian home, both parents must be Christian, born again, regenerated and led by the Spirit.

Our responsibility in the home is to read the Bible, and have our daily prayers; to teach the Word of God, loyalty to God, the Church and home; to instruct and admonish in reference to the sexual life and social relations.

Begin early in life to command the children for God and the Church: disciplining in love and bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

2. Children are an heritage of the Lord. They should early remember their Creator and have a love for God and His Word.

Read only good literature that may be helpful in future life, exercising great care as to their associations, selecting only such as live clean and pure lives; also to obey their parents in the Lord.

Bro. D. D. Miller gave a brief report concerning the plans for the opening of Goshen College.

Forenoon session closed with prayer led by S. W. Sommer.

Thursday Afternoon

Afternoon session opened with song, and Bro. Perry A. Heller reading Jno. 15 and leading in prayer.

The question of giving the tent a dressing of some kind of a preservative preparation and also the providing of a place for its storage was presented to Conference.

It was moved and seconded that this question be left to the tent committee, they to make a thorough investigation and proceed as they may see fit. So ordered.

Bro. C. W. Leininger was appointed to fill the vacancy on the tent committee caused by Bro. Earl Miller moving out of the Conference District.

The following resolution was brought before Conference:

Since repeated efforts have been made to get the brotherhood of the Maple Grove congregation, near Topeka, Ind., reconciled to each other and with Conference, and since there is still a divided and unreconciled condition existing which is not conducive to Christian growth and welfare; we as a Conference want to express our deep sorrow and regret for said condition and earnestly urge the entire brotherhood to pray especially for said congregation that the best for His cause may be accomplished there.

1. As a Conference we feel it our Christian duty to help this congregation and hence we submit the following resolution:—Resolved, That Conference should appoint a committee of three who shall visit all the members of that congregation and make an effort to bring about a reconciliation.

2. All of those who are willing to work in harmony with the rules and regulations of Conference, to maintain the vital Christian principles for which the Church stands, shall be asked to sign a statement to this effect.

3. All those who refuse to sign said statement or evade being visited (thus expressing an unwillingness to labor loyally with the Church) thereby forfeit their church membership at Maple Grove and the same shall be so reported to the congregation.

4. The committee in consultation with the Bishop and Executive Committee of Conference shall reorganize the various activities of the congregation where possible and make such other arrangements as may be conducive to the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

5. The aforesaid committee of three shall be privileged to plan and work as they deem best according to the situation and developments, and their work, with the approval of the Executive Committee of Conference, shall be final.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted. So ordered.

The bishop oversight of the Elkhart Congregation was referred to the Executive Committee.

Moved and seconded that a committee be appointed to revise the Constitution and Discipline. Carried. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that the committee that is to revise the Constitution and Discipline shall consist of the Executive Committee of Conference and five others, who shall be appointed in the regular way. So ordered.

Bro. C. L. Graber discussed the subject, **Gospel Unity.**

The committee appointed to work with the Maple Grove Congregation is as follows: Brethren, J. C. Frey, D. H. Coffman, and A. S. Miller.

By rising vote the visitors expressed their thanks to the Leo and Ft. Wayne congregations for their kindness and hospitality.

Results of elections are as follows: Brethren Abner Holdeman and Alonzo Miller, members of local board of Ft. Wayne Mission; Bro. D. A. Yoder, member Board of Education; Bro. J. K. Bixler, member Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities; Bro. J. B. Moyer, member Mennonite Relief Commission; Moderator of Conference, Bro. D. A. Yoder; assistant moderator, Bro. O. S. Hostetler; fourth and fifth members on the Executive Committee, D. D. Troyer and D. J. Johns; Treasurer, Bro. H. B. Weaver.

After a few appropriate remarks by the Moderator the Conference came to a close. Closing prayer by Bro. D. D. Miller.

Bishops.—Jonathan Kurtz, J. P. Miller, D. J. Johns, J. W. Christophel, D. D. Miller, J. K. Bixler, D. A. Yoder, Menno Eash, D. D. Troyer, O. S. Hostetler, J. M. Shenk, C. F. Derstine, David Garber.

Ministers.—J. S. Hartzler, Harvey Friesner, Jonas Loucks, Amos Cripe, J. H. McGowen, Henry Weldy, J. S. Horner, Y. C. Miller, B. B. King, A. J. Hostetler, Josiah J. Miller, N. M. Slabaugh, Silas Yoder, John Bare, Amos Nusbaum, Aldus Brackbill, A. S. Miller, S. W. Summer, Alfred Weidman, R. A. Buskirk, C. C. Culp, Ray F. Yoder, C. A. Shank, James Bucher, M. S. Steiner, Clyde Kauffman, Joseph Newhauser, Menno J. Yoder, Perry A. Heller, Allen Christophel, Silas L. Weldy, J. B. Smith, Andrew Brenneman, A. E. Kreider, C. L. Graber, Ira S. Johns.

Deacons.—J. J. Mishler, Samuel Smeltzer, N. W. King, Frank Maust, J. Y. Hooley, Menno Steiner, J. I. Weldy, John Lugibill, Henry B. Weaver, Albert Wyse, Oliver Grosh, Amos Weldy, J. Z. Birkey, M. D. Lantz, Solomon Brunk.

Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE INDIANA-MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Held at the Shore Church near Shipshewana, Ind., June 3, 4, 1925

Conference was called to order at the regular time by the moderator, Bro. D. A. Yoder. After the singing of a few hymns Bro. J. W. Christophel conducted the devotion by reading I Cor. 3 and leading in prayer.

The minutes of the previous Conference were read and approved.

The roll call showed a quorum present.

There were three deacons ordained during the Conference year, namely, Earl Miller of the Middlebury congregation, Amos Hostetler of the Emma congregation, and David Yontz of the Clinton Frame congregation. These were received and welcomed as members of Conference.

Bro. D. D. Miller of the Forks congregation preached the Conference sermon. Texts, Ex. 14:15 and II Tim. 4:5.

God has always had His leaders. To be a saint is a high calling. From among His saints God has always seen fit to choose His leaders who have special responsibilities committed unto them. When ministers, like Moses, do not take the rod, but become weak-kneed and have no backbone, and do not stand together, there will also be a lack of unity among the laity. God did not call us to this work without a rod in our hand. When we throw down the gift that He has given us it becomes an enemy to us and it will drag us down. Preach the Word. **Preach the Word. PREACH THE WORD.** It is as necessary to preach the "all things" as it is to go to "all the world." It is not worth the fare it costs to send a missionary across the briny deep if he is apologetic and fails in teaching the "all things." "Speak to the people to go forward." The more the enemy fights the harder we in the ministry should work to help the people. "Make full proof of thy ministry," was emphasized very definitely.

The following brethren gave testimony to the Conference sermon: D. A. Yoder, D. J. Johns, J. S. Hartzler, J. S. Shoemaker, E. A. Bontrager, J. K. Bixler, Earl Miller, Eli Frey, Geo. Summers, Amos Hostetler, Jonathan Kurtz, Allen Christophel, Noah Oyer, and J. C. Frey. The ministers present who were not called upon to give oral testimony expressed their testimony by rising. The congregation also expressed their testimony and loyalty by rising.

Forenoon session closed with prayer led by E. A. Mast.

Afternoon session opened with song. Scripture reading by J. S. Shoemaker, reading Eph. 4 and also leading in prayer.

The brethren, Noah Oyer, C. L. Graber, and Christian Reiff, having previously presented their Conference letters to the Executive Committee, were at this time formally received as members of this Conference.

The brethren, D. D. Miller, Noah Oyer, and A. S. Miller were appointed as a Resolution Committee.

The subject, **How Maintain Bible Separation,** was discussed by Bro. Claude C. Culp of Chief, Mich. The following resolution was adopted:

The Bible distinctly teaches the doctrine of separation from the world. There was to be a distinct separation between the lines of Seth and Cain; God called Abraham to be the head of a separate people through whom He could work. Gen. 12:1-3. Christ says, "My kingdom is not of this world" (Jno. 18:36). Separation in spirit and practice is the ideal demanded of God's children. Rom. 12:1, 2.

1. By a deepening of spiritual life of each believer.
2. By hiding the Word in our hearts that we might not sin against God. Psa. 119:11.
3. By prayer and every means of grace that God has given us.
4. By consistent teaching from the pulpit, in the home, in all of our church activities, by precept and example, with as much earnestness as we teach other Bible subjects.
5. By following the discipline that has been accepted by our Conference.

Afternoon session closed with prayer led by Bro. Joseph Neuhauser.

Wednesday evening session opened with song. Scripture reading by Samuel Grieser, reading Col. 1 and leading in prayer.

The subject for the evening was as follows:

The Family Altar:

1. **Its History.** Discussed by Bro. Noah Oyer.
2. **Why Continue?** Discussed by Bro. Perry Heller.
3. **How Conduct?** Discussed by Bro. J. S. Shoemaker.
4. **Results.** Discussed by Bro. Amos Hostetler.

Evening session closed with prayer led by J. D. Birkey.

Thursday morning session opened in the usual way. Bro. Geo. Summers read Eph. 3 and led in prayer.

On Thursday the following subjects were discussed:

What is the Scriptural method of calling men to the ministry? Discussed by S. W. Summer.

Ans. Refer to Art. II. Sec. 1, 2, 3 of Constitution and Discipline.

How can we best meet our educational needs? Discussed by Bro. Silas Weldy.

No answer adopted.

Other resolutions were adopted as follows:

Whereas, there is an increasing number of interests in the Church calling for financial support, we recommend that no solicitation for funds be attempted in any congregation without consultation with and consent of the ministry of the congregation concerned.

Whereas, it has pleased the heavenly Father in His wisdom and love to remove from our midst four brethren who were active members of this Conference, namely, Harvey Friesner and Samuel Yoder, ministers; Eli Zook and Harvey Miller, deacons; and

Whereas, we miss them and no longer have the benefit of their fellowship and encouragement, be it

Resolved, That we as a Conference hereby express our humble submission to our Father, knowing that His way is best, and that we hereby express our sympathies to the bereaved families.

Resolved, further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the families of our departed brethren.

Miscellaneous Business

Much time was given to the discussion of the proposed new Constitution and Discipline. After much discussion and some changes it was unanimously adopted by Conference. It was also further decided that this Constitution, Rules, and Discipline should become the rules of order for this Conference when a majority of all votes cast in the congregations are in favor of same.

A condensed report of the work of the Executive Committee was read and accepted.

A written report from the Secretary of the Mission Board was read and accepted.

The Sunday School Conference program was read and approved.

The committee appointed to consult with Bro. Bixler regarding the bishop oversight for the Elkhart congregation reported that on account of Bro. Bixler's physical condition he could not consider the undertaking of more work at present.

The Conference Treasurer reported a balance in the treasury of $88.16. Report accepted.

By motion it was decided to elect two from Michigan and four from Indiana as delegates to General Conference.

Moved and seconded that the committee be retained to look after the interests of the tent. So ordered.

Privilege for ordinations were granted the following congregations: Shore, Nappanee, and Bowne.

Moved and seconded that the Committee of ten that revised the Constitution and Discipline present the same to the various congregations in the manner they may see fit. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that the brethren, J. S. Hartzler and A. B. Christophel and the Secretary, get the new Constitution, Rules, and Discipline ready for the printer. So ordered.

Decided to have 5000 copies printed.

Elections and appointments were as follows: Delegates to General Conference, B. B. King, J. S. Hartzler, Henry Weldy, James Bucher, Clyde Kauffman, Claude Culp; Local Board Ft. Wayne Mission, Abner Holdeman, Lon Miller; member Board of Missions and Charities, J. S. Hartzler; member Publication Board, J. K. Bixler; member Board of Education, D. A. Yoder; member on Committee of Arrangements for General Conference, D. D. Miller.

Moderator, D. D. Miller; assistant moderator, D. A. Yoder; fourth and fifth members of Executive Committee, O. S. Hostetler and D. D. Troyer; treasurer, Henry B. Weaver.

There were present at this Conference 14 bishops, 39 ministers, and 15 deacons.

A vote of thanks was given for the use of the ground where the tent stood, and for the hospitality of the people of the Shore congregation.

Some very timely remarks were given by the retiring member of the Executive Committee, Bro. D. J. Johns; also by Bro. Eli Frey, Wauseon, Ohio, and by the Moderator, Bro. D. A. Yoder.

Closing prayer by D. D. Miller.

Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held with the Howard-Miami Congregation near Kokomo, Indiana, June 2 and 3, 1926

Conference was called to order at the appointed time by the Moderator, Bro. D. D. Miller. After singing a few hymns, the devotion was conducted by Bro. Menno Eash by reading Eph. 2, and leading in prayer.

Bro. D. J. Johns of the Clinton Frame congregation preached the Conference sermon. Text, I Cor. 1:10.

In this text we have the thought of unity. In John 17 Jesus prayed for unity. The words that the apostles received were the words of Christ, and Jesus prayed that all who believe through their word might be one in Him even as He and the Father are one.

It is required of us that we be one in Christ Jesus. How is it possible then that we can be divided?

He whom God has sent speaketh the Words of God.

God can use every brother and every sister providing we are willing to command those in our charge in the ways of the Lord, even as Abraham of whom God said, "I know he will command his children and his household after him." There is a great responsibility resting upon the fathers and mothers. Do you have a real love for the souls of your children?

As bishops, ministers, deacons, fathers, mothers, teachers and instructors everywhere let us speak the same things so there may be no divisions among us.

God has judged that "the soul that sinneth, it shall die;" that the righteous and the wicked shall not always live together; there will be a separation, and now already He says that believers shall be separate.

Our brother made a very strong appeal to the younger men in the ministry to stand faithful and true to the faith once delivered to the saints.

The following brethren were called upon for testimony: Jonathan Kurtz, E. A. Mast, J. K. Bixler, S. W. Summer, Lloy Kniss (appointed missionary to India), Edwin Yoder, Menno Eash, Albert Wyse, O. S. Hostetler, J. I. Weldy, D. D. Troyer, Menno Steiner, J. W. Christophel, Chancey Hartzler (Tiskilwa, Ill.), D. A. Yoder, O. P. Grosh, Clyde Kauffman, Amos Weldy, C. S. Shertz, J. J. Zimmerman, (Crystal Springs, Kans.), James Bucher, Perry Heller, J. S. Neuhauser, J. Y. Hooley.

The other ministers and the congregation gave their testimony by rising.

Forenoon session closed with prayer led by J. S. Hartzler.

During the noon hour a meeting of the conference members was held in the church. At this meeting the minutes of the Executive Committee for the year were read to the ministry in full. With one change they were approved.

At this meeting it was decided that each bishop with his ministry of the local congregations should decide as to what method, if any, should be used in their respective congregations to solicit funds for the hospital.

Afternoon session opened with song, the congregation repeated the 23rd Psalm, and Bro. J. S. Neuhauser led in prayer.

There were four ministers ordained during the Conference year; namely, Nelson Litwiller, who, by the request of the General Mission Board was ordained for the South American field, Edwin Yoder of the Maple Grove congregation, Floyd Weaver (formerly of the Yellow Creek congregation now located in the Burr Oak congregation in Jasper Co., Ind.), and S. J. Miller

(formerly of the Leo congregation now located in the Berne congregation near Pigeon, Mich.). There were also two deacons ordained, namely Manford Freed of the Maple River congregation, and Geo. Stahl of the Bowne congregation near Elmdale, Mich. By motion these were welcomed as members of Conference.

The roll call showed a quorum present.

The minutes of previous Conference were read and with a slight correction were approved.

At this session the following subjects were discussed.

Ques. 1. The advisability of holding Short Bible Schools in the Conference District besides the one at Goshen College. Discussed by Bro. J. S. Hartzler.

Ans. Since it is generally conceded that the present Biblical instruction in our Conference District is insufficient to meet our present needs and demands, Therefore be it,

Resolved, That we instruct the Executive Committee of Conference to make special efforts to have a few Bible schools at centrally located places through the Conference District, and that they further attempt to establish as many summer Bible schools as possible.

Ques. 2. The duties of the Executive Committee of Conference. Discussed by Bro. B. B. King.

Ans. We believe that the duties of the Executive Committee are clearly defined in the Constitution, Rules, and Discipline; and while some technical duties might be further defined we believe that this is hardly necessary.

Afternoon session closed with a prayer led by Silas Yoder.

The evening session opened with song. Some Bible verses were repeated. Prayer led by Bro. Harold Bender.

Subject for the evening was as follows:—

Worship.

1. **In Song.** Discussed by Bro. S. J. Miller.
2. **In Reading.** Discussed by Bro. Earl Miller.
3. **In Prayer.** Discussed by Bro. Moses Steiner.
4. **In Preaching.** Discussed by Bro. Lloy Kniss.

Closing prayer by O. S. Hostetler.

Thursday morning session opened in the usual way. Devotional services conducted by Bro. C. A. Hartzler of Tiskilwa, Ill., by reading I Pet. 1, and leading in prayer.

On Thursday the following subjects were discussed:

Ques. 1. Unscriptural alliances in business. Discussed by Bro. J. K. Bixler.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Bixler write his talk, and that it be published in pamphlet form. So ordered.

Ques. 2. Modest apparel. Discussed by Bro. Clyde Kauffman.

Ans. I Tim. 2:9; and I Pet. 3:3 show that apparel is to be

modest, comely, not costly, plain, showing reserve, not suggestive of immorality or which excites lust.

2. The dress is to be suggestive of such simplicity as does not require a study of the customs of the world.

3. It is to be such as is in full accord with the principles of nonconformity to the world and the faith and practices of the church.

This Conference urges upon its ministers to faithfully impress upon their people the teaching of the Bible on this subject, to themselves study the results of present worldly conformity on the rising generation, and to warn without fear or favor on this question.

Ques. 3. Eternal Security. Discussed by Bro. Allen Christophel.

Ans. This Conference believes that the theory of eternal security, as commonly understood, is contrary to the teachings of Christ and His apostles.

This theory teaches (1) that the really saved "shall never fall" so as to be eternally lost; (2) that when one has professed salvation, then falls away, it is an indication either that he never was converted or that, if converted, the Lord will finally bring him back and save him. Such a theory tends to create a lax disposition toward the commandments of God.

We believe (1) that salvation comes through Jesus Christ, and is the gift of God; (2) that salvation and good works are inseparable; (3) that God's keeping power, like His saving power, is limited only insofar as we limit it by choice; (4) that He has made ample provisions to keep the saved from falling; (5) that receiving the power of being and remaining saved are dependent upon our own choice and obedience; (6) that it is possible for the saint to fall away; (7) that the children of God are eternally secure as implied by that term only when they have reached eternal glory.

Jno. 15:2 shows a perfect union with Christ and yet the possibility of falling away and being eternally lost. Heb. 6:4-6 shows the possibility of being made a partaker of the Holy Ghost and the powers of the world to come (a high standard of Christian experience) and that such an one may fall to such a low plane that a renewal to repentance is impossible; Heb. 10:23-25 shows an actual experience in Christ, v. 26 shows that it is possible to sin wilfully, v. 27 tells of a condemning conscience after such sin and v. 29 shows the awfulness of such falling away. These and other scriptures show that though we may be converted, in Christ, full of the Holy Ghost, we may be finally lost because we did not choose to remain in that sanctified state. An awful warning.

Ques. 4. The purpose and value of Church discipline. Discussed by Bro. A. S. Miller.

No resolution presented. It was decided that Bro. Miller be asked to write his talk and that it be published in the Gospel Herald.

Other resolutions adopted are as follows:

Whereas, death has come into our ranks and taken away two of our faithful workers, A. J. Hostetler of the Middlebury congregation and J. C. Lugibill of the Leo congregation, and,

Whereas, we miss them in the congregations and in Conference, yet feel to say to Him who does all things well, "Thy will be done," be it

Resolved, That we by this means express our sympathy to their respective congregations and families in their loss and trust that the Lord may bless even this bereavement to the good of His cause.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this Conference and a copy of said resolutions be sent to the families of our departed brethren.

Since the Sunday School Conference has asked this Conference to define its position on the matter of our members taking part in township, county, and state Sunday school conventions; and,

Since attending and taking part in these conventions affiliates us with those belonging to secret orders; and since many of their programs are of such a nature that we can not approve, and since many things that they want us to do are not in accordance with our faith and practice, and since their methods of work along popular lines have a deadening effect upon the church and Sunday school; therefore be it,

Resolved, That we urge our people to refrain from attending or taking part in such conventions.

Whereas, the Executive Committee has spent much time and otherwise made sacrifice to carry on the work of this Conference, be it

Resolved, That we express, by a rising vote, our sincere thanks for their untiring service and agree to support them by our sympathy and prayers for the coming year.

Resolved, That we from other localities most heartily appreciate the kindness shown us by the brotherhood of this place during these meetings, providing for our comforts, both in their homes and here on the grounds; that we pray God for a blessing upon them for these favors.

Miscellaneous Business

The Secretary gave a report of the congregations. Report

accepted. A few things in this report are as follows: There are 30 congregations in the Conference District, net gain during the year was 193. Total membership is 3988.

The Secretary of the Mission Board gave a report. This report was accepted.

The Sunday School Conference program was read and approved.

The visiting ministers from other conferences were accorded the privilege of discussion.

The Treasurer gave a report. Reported a balance in the treasury of $133. Report accepted.

Decided to have Conference Programs printed and distributed to the congregations before conference.

Moved and seconded, That the Executive Committee be reimbursed for the expenses they have in carrying on the Conference work. So ordered.

Elections and appointments: Local Board of Ft. Wayne Mission, Abner Holdeman, Lon Miller; Tent Committee, L. J. Pletcher, William Hoover, Claude Leininger; member Educational Board, D. A. Yoder; member Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, J. S. Hartzler.

Moderator, D. D. Miller; Asst. Moderator, D. A. Yoder; Secretary, Ira S. Johns; fourth and fifth members of the Executive Committee, O. S. Hostetler, D. D. Troyer; Treasurer, Henry B. Weaver. After a few remarks by the Moderator and singing, "Blest be the Tie that Binds." D. J. Johns led in a closing prayer.

Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held with the Forks Congregation near Middlebury, Indiana, June 1, 2, 1927

Conference was called to order at 9:30 by the moderator, Bro. D. D. Miller. After singing a few songs Bro. J. S. Hartzler conducted the devotion by reading Phil. 2:1-8, and leading in prayer.

The Conference sermon was preached by Bro. A. S. Miller, using for a text II Cor. 6:1.

It is not our work, it is God's work. Every child of God is a servant of the Lord. Unless we have been changed, we cannot be a servant of His. He has chosen us. He has called us and has separated us from the world unto service for Him. This separated life is the happiest life.

If we falter or fail how will the world be salted?

He has gifted each worker. Sometimes we feel that we are unable to do anything for the Lord. We all have talents, or at least a talent. He also gives us sufficient grace (Eph. 4:7) to use these talents or talent to His honor and glory.

He sets each member in his place. In a stone wall some stones are not seen yet they do their part in supporting the wall. The Lord does not call those that desire a high place for the sake of honor.

How can workers work together except they be agreed? God wants His people to be of one mind. Rom. 15:6; 12:16; I Cor. 1.10.

If you do not enjoy your Christian life, get right with God.

If we as Conference members stand together with one mind, and work together as one body, something will be accomplished, for the Lord will not allow His work to fall to the ground.

Let us stand together for the faith we hold so dear. May we not shun to declare the whole counsel of God so that we may be found faithful and always ready to give an answer for the hope that is within us.

A number of brethren were called upon for testimony.

The other ministers and the congregation gave their testimony by rising.

(All sessions of Conference were opened with devotion, scripture reading and prayer, and closed with prayer.)

The roll call showed a quorum present. Sixty-five of the seventy-eight Conference members responded to the roll call. There were present at this Conference twelve bishops, thirty-five ministers, and twenty deacons, from this Conference district, and also a few from other districts.

The minutes of the previous Conference were read and approved.

J. S. Hartzler, Menno Eash and A. B. Christophel were appointed as a Resolution Committee.

During the noon hour a called session of the Conference members was held. The complete minutes of the work of the Executive Committee during the year was read to them. By motion these were approved.

During this Conference the following subjects were discussed and resolutions adopted.

Bro. B. B. Janz, formerly from Russia, addressed the Conference in the German language.

Ques. 1. Conference, its place and purpose, discussed by Bro. D. A. Yoder.

Ans. The first conference of the Christian Church (Acts 15) was held because a problem had arisen which a local congregation (Antioch) could not solve satisfactorily and the counsel of the elders and apostles was needed. After due consideration of all

problems in the light of God's Word and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the apostles and elders rendered the decisions of the church which were considered decrees.

Some of these conclusions were not considered necessary except for the peace of the church (such as meat offered to idols). These decisions were delivered by letter (with brethren to substantiate them) unto the various congregations "for to keep" (Acts 16:4).

Conference should be representative, provided the representatives are representative of the principles of the Bible and the Church, and a God-chosen ministry will be so. Bishops, ministers, and deacons are chosen, not of their own choice, but by the Church. Paul admonished Christians to be subject unto those over them in the Church and are responsible to God for souls.

Conference is first a meeting place where problems are discussed and decisions reached; second, it is a point of contact for common problems and a united effort to further the cause of Christ and the Church; third, it is a place to formulate ways and means to uphold the principles of the Bible as we believe and practice them, and help each other solve problems and give counsel; fourth, young men may secure more mature counsel from older men; fifth, it is the work of Conference to apply the Word of God to modern problems; sixth, it is a means of promulgating mission work.

Conference decisions are as binding as they are Scriptural (I Pet. 2:13), and as effective as they are lived out by ministers and laity. Disobedience to Conference is destructive to spiritual life.

Ques. 2. Sister's sewing circle work; its place and organization, discussed by D. J. Johns.

Ans. The work of the Sewing Circle is suggested in Scripture. Acts 9:36. They have greatly helped the unfortunate at home and abroad. They probably have saved lives and possibly have been instrumental in saving souls. They have an opportunity to make clothing for the needy according to Scriptural teaching.

The Sewing Circle has opportunity to do mission work and beyond local work they should coöperate with the General Board and the Committee of General Conference. They should report to the General Board and be subject thereto. We approve of the present organization pending action of General Conference.

Our congregations should supply them with funds so they will not need to sew for others to get money, or use other means to secure funds. Such work has a deadening effect on the work of the Church. Psa. 127:1.

Ques. 3. Special programs and services: their effect upon the congregation in general, discussed by J. K. Bixler.

Ans. All work should be done "unto edifying the church." Some things are lawful and for personal desire and are not edifying. Edification means to instruct or build up others in spiritual matters and should tend to bring the Church up to the fullness of the stature of Christ. That which does not edify should not be included in church worship. Nothing should be done to disrupt the Scriptural peace of the Church. Comical features and things done for entertainment should not be used by ministers or others.

Members who are out of the order of the Church and children who have reached the age of accountability and are not members of the Church should not be used on programs. The house of God should not be converted into a place of entertainment. The arrangement of programs and services should be under control of the ministry.

Ques. 4. Who should fill our pulpits on regular as well as special occasions? Discussed by O. S. Hostetler.

Ans. The pulpit is to be in charge of those who have been called by the Holy Ghost and is to be used to preach the Word. Ministers are responsible for the pulpit and should guard that it is not desecrated. God-fearing, spiritual, honest, true, and regenerated men should fill pulpits on all occasions. Ministers are to be true and faithful to the charge God has given them.

Ministers alone should invite and bring other ministers into the pulpits for regular services.

Ministers in charge of a congregation who are true to Jesus Christ should be duly recognized and consulted in all services, regular and special, be they funeral or any other.

Ques. 5. What can this Conference do to bring about greater reverence for God's house and Word? Discussed by Perry Heller. No answer adopted.

Ques. 6. Interpretation of Section 2 and 3 of Art. 10 of the Constitution and Discipline. Discussed by C. C. Culp. No answer adopted.

The following resolutions were adopted by Conference.

Whereas, it has pleased our heavenly Father to remove from our midst Bro. J. D. Birky, bishop of the Hopewell congregation, and although we shall miss his counsel in Conference and his help in caring for his flock, be it,

Resolved, That we humbly bow to His will and pray that God may raise up another shepherd for the flock.

Resolved, That we sympathize with the Hopewell congregation and with the family in their loss and ask that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family and to the congregation.

Whereas, the Lord has called away our well-known Brother J. H. McGowen of the Nappanee congregation, be it,

Resolved, That our sympathy be hereby expressed to the family and to the congregation in their loss.

Resolved, That the Secretary be asked to send a copy of these resolutions to the congregation and to the bereaved family.

Whereas, General Conference has approved the educational work of the Church, and,

Whereas, it has been found impossible to conduct it without some revenue other than the income of the school, and,

Whereas, State requirements are such as to make an endowment fund almost imperative, be it,

Resolved, That we favor the raising of an endowment, the same to be kept in control of the Mennonite Board of Education, and we encourage our members to contribute thereto.

On Wednesday evening a workers' meeting was conducted by Bro. S. J. Miller.

The subject for the evening was as follows:

The Holy Ghost and the believer. Discussed by Noah Oyer.

Miscellaneous Business

The Executive Committee and the bishops met together and at this meeting it was decided that we rent the tent to the General Conference. The matter of who should have bishop oversight of the Hopewell congregation was also discussed at this meeting and the final disposition of the matter was left to the Executive Committee.

Five new members were received into the Conference body; viz., Homer North and Floyd Bontrager, ministers, and Simon Beck, Percy Miller, and Irvin Long, deacons.

The Secretary gave a report of the congregations. This report showed 30 congregations in the Conference District and a total membership of 4039.

The Secretary of the District Mission Board gave a report. His report showed a total membership under the Board of 334.

The Secretary of Conference gave a condensed report of the work of the Executive Committee for the Conference year.

The Conference treasurer gave his report. This report showed a balance in the treasury of $159.95.

The Tent committee reported that the tent building needed to have some heat in the building in order to keep the tent from mildewing. By motion it was decided that the tent committee be reëlected and that the matter of heating the building be referred to them, they to take such action as they deem best.

The Sunday School Conference program was read, and final approval of same left to the Executive Committee.

The Secretary of the Sunday School Conference read a few changes they wish to make in the Sunday School Conference Constitution.

Moved and seconded that these changes be approved. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that we appoint six delegates to General Conference. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that the Executive Committee of Conference appoint the delegates for General Conference.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Bixler be asked to write out his address and send the same to the Gospel Herald for publication. So ordered.

Elections and appointments: Member Committee on Arrangements for General Conference, D. D. Miller; member Board of Education, D. A. Yoder; member Publication Board, A. B. Christophel; member Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, J. K. Bixler; members on Local Board for Ft. Wayne Mission, Abner Holdeman, Lon Miller.

Conference Treasurer, Henry B. Weaver; Moderator, D. D. Miller; Asst. Moderator, O. S. Hostetler; Secretary, Ira S. Johns; fourth and fifth members of Executive Committee, D. A. Yoder, D. D. Troyer.

After a few well-chosen remarks by the Moderator and singing the hymn, Blest Be the Tie that Binds, Bro. J. S. Hartzler led the closing prayer.

Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held with the Olive Congregation on June 7, 8, 1928

Conference was called to order by the Moderator, Bro. D. D. Miller. Singing was led by J. I. Weldy. Devotional services were conducted by J. W. Christophel by reading Eph. 4, also leading in prayer.

The Conference sermon was preached by Eli Frey from Wauseon, Ohio. Text, I Tim. 3:15.

Paul was writing to a young man, addressing him as a son. These words are given by inspiration and therefore apply to us as well as to Timothy.

In this text Paul is speaking of the Church which is "the pillar and ground of the truth."

Because of sin man was estranged from God, and of his own ability could not come into favor with God. It is only the goodness of God that has ever made this possible.

The law with all its thunderings did not draw men to God but rather filled them with fear. Sin makes afraid.

Unless God Himself works upon us we have no real power. WE must be born again. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (I Jno. 5:1).

Jesus is the Savior of the world to-day, but some day He will be the judge.

Hidden sin causes us to doubt and question our salvation.

I Jno. 5:4 helps us to locate ourselves. Are we overcoming the world?

A number of brethren gave testimony to the sermon.

The congregation expressed approval of the sermon and testimonies by standing.

(All sessions of Conference were opened with appropriate devotional services and prayer and closed with prayer.)

The roll call showed a quorum present. Sixty-three of the seventy-seven members of Conference responded to the roll call. There were present at this Conference 10 bishops, 32 ministers and 22 deacons from this Conference district, and 2 bishops, 12 ministers, and 1 deacon from other districts.

The minutes of the previous Conference were read and approved.

At a called session of Conference members the complete minutes of all the meetings of the Executive Committee held during the Conference year, were read.

On motion these were approved as read.

The Committee on Resolutions consisted of the brethren, J. S. Hartzler, S. C. Yoder, and Amos Hostetler.

During this Conference the following subjects were discussed and resolutions and answers adopted.

Ques. 1. How learn to appreciate Conference? Discussed by S. W. Sommer.

Ans. We are interested in things in which we have invested something. This applies to Conference as well as to business matters. If we want to learn to appreciate Conference, we need to attend regularly, consider its work sympathetically, and be carefully and honestly obedient.

Ques. 2. The minister's high calling. Discussed by D. J. Johns.

Whereas, this subject is such an important one; be it,

Resolved, That we ask Bro. Johns to write out his talk, giving such additional thoughts as he sees fit, to be published in the Gospel Herald, where its contents may be read by the ministry and laity throughout the entire brotherhood.

Ques. 3. The Christian and secular work on the Lord's Day Discussed by Ira S. Johns.

Ans. Since there are conditions prevalent in the world to-day which constantly place before Christian people temptations to desecrate the Lord's Day through buying and selling and in some instances makes it difficult for our brethren to conduct some lines of business without becoming implicated, and:

Since the Bible teaches clearly that this day is to be held as a day of rest as well as fellowship and worship, therefore be it,

Resolved, That we urge the brotherhood to study the subject of Lord's Day observance as taught in the Scriptures and apply its principles to present-day conditions. In order that a tender conscience may be formed on this subject, we urge that parents teach their children by precept and example, and advise that the ministry give wholesome teaching on the subject by preaching at least one sermon a year in each congregation, on Observance of the Lord's Day.

Ques. 4. Essentials for growth in grace. Discussed by Homer North.

We must first get Jesus Christ into our life. We must put forth effort to cultivate that which has been given us if we would grow.

God is the sun: (a) that energy; (b) that light.

As the sun is that great center of attraction for plant life, so God should be that great center of attraction for us.

This growth in our Christian life is not so mysterious as we think when we let Jesus Christ into our lives.

After we are born again the first thing we need in order to grow in grace is to know the Word of God.

2. We must pray to have a close relation to God.

3. We need to meditate.

4. There must be an absolute obedience.

Ques. 5. Home Life.

1. **Present tendencies destructive to it.** Discussed by S. L. Weldy.

2. **How counteract these tendencies?** Discussed by D. A. Yoder.

When we think of this subject we think of an ideal home. Husband means house-band, or bond of home. Wife means weaver. The Christian home is to be a place where man and wife live as they should in the mind of God.

Some internal tendencies:

1. Lack of unity in the Home. Father and mother do not see things alike. Children not in harmony with parents.

2. Lack of consecration.

3. Lack of respect for authority. Children rising up against the parents. This is causing much trouble in our churches.

4 Tendency to neglect the prayer life. Neglect of family altar. Jer. 10:25.

Some external tendencies:

1. Commercial enterprises, commercial amusements, spirit of the day is making its inroads upon our homes. Automobiles, pleasure rides, going, going, going. It is reaching into every avenue of our life.

2. We are living in a day of much printing and reading. The press is an agency that puts out dangerous doctrines. The radio is not an asset to the spiritual life of the home.

3. Politics, especially since suffrage has been granted to women.

4. Women doing what men do, taking man's place is destructive to home life.

The home is **our** sanctuary. **Our** rights and privileges are **first** in **our** own homes.

There is a lack of home teaching, then the remedy is to teach the Word of God. Therefore get back to God's Word and teach it morning, noon, and night.

Lack of love. How overcome this? Let us look into God's Word. Marriage is for life, according to God's Word. Lack of love, because husband and wife do not pull together. Get right with God.

There shoud be a oneness in the home. When father says **no** mother should say **no**; when mother says **no** father should say **no**; when father says **yes** mother should say **yes**, when mother says **yes** father should say **yes.**

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right." Modern cry seems to be, Parents, obey your children.

If we all keep our place it will help much to overcome the tendencies that break down home life.

To overcome pleasure of the world in the home, bring in the joys of heaven. The home ought not to be law but love, not hilarity but joy, not slavery but industry, not formal but real worship, not colored but clean, not dictatorial but working together.

Since our heavenly Father has seen fit to remove from our midst by death our worthy Brother Jacob P. Miller, bishop of the Shore congregation, and,

Since his congenial disposition and counsel will be greatly missed in Conference, the Church, the community, and the home, and,

Since we realize that our heavenly Father doeth all things well and His dealings with His children are always just and for their good, be it,

Resolved, That though we greatly feel our loss we humbly

bow to the will of a kind Providence, believing that what is proving to be our loss is Bro. Miller's eternal gain.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of Conference and another copy be sent to the bereaved family.

Since the brotherhood of the Olive congregation has so kindly received and cared for the needs and comforts of the members of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference and visitors in their church and homes during the time of the annual meeting, even in spite of the inclement weather: therefore the Conference and visitors hereby express our appreciation of these favors and pray that God may richly reward these ministrations of Christian love with an enrichment of life and spirit that will lead to still greater joy in life and service for the Master.

The subject for the Thursday evening session was as folows: **Sin.**

1. **The exceeding sinfulness of sin.** Discussed by Clyde Kauffman.

2. **How overcome it.** Discussed by Joseph Neuhauser.

Miscellaneous Business

The Secretary of the District Mission Board gave his report. Report accepted. (This report is in the files of the Secretary.)

The Mission Superintendent gave his report. Report accepted.

The Sunday School Conference program was read and approved.

Conference members expressed themselves as favoring the ordination of a minister in the Hopewell Congregation at Kouts, Ind.

On motion it was decided to leave the matter of bishop oversight for the Hopewell Congregation to the Executive Committee.

On motion it was decided that Bro. C. M. Butte should be considered a member of Conference, subject to the receiving of his Conference letter.

It was decided that the present officers of the sewing circle organization should hold over until the Sunday school conference, which is to be held with the Maple Grove congregation in August, at which time they may call a meeting and organize themselves until next annual Conference.

On motion it was decided to have all previous minutes of the Indiana-Michigan A. M. Conference and the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, and the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (successor to the above named Conferences) printed in book form.

The Executive Committee was instructed to appoint a committee of three to get these minutes in shape for publication.

By vote the Conference members expressed themselves favor-

able to have a history of each congregation written and included in the printing of the minutes.

The Secretary gave a report of the congregations. There are thirty-one congregations in the District, with a total membership of 4210.

A missionary offering was taken and placed in the General fund of the Indiana-Michigan District Mission Board.

The Tent Committee gave a report. After some discussion it was decided to add two members to the present committee and empower the committee of five to look after the care and dressing of the tent.

The two additional members appointed on the tent committee were S. E. Weaver and I. G. Gnagy.

By a vote of Conference members it was decided to extend an invitation to the Executive Committee of the General Conference to hold the next General Conference in Northern Indiana.

On motion it was decided that the Executive Committee of Conference work with the Executive Committee of General Conference in working out details of location, etc.

The Conference treasurer gave his report. Reported a balance in treasury of $44.91. Report accepted.

Elections and appointments: Members Local Board of Ft. Wayne Mission, Abner Holdeman, Lon Miller; member Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, J. K. Bixler; members Mennonite Board of Education, D. A. Yoder, A. B. Christophel

Conference Treasurer, Henry B. Weaver; Moderator, D. D. Miler; Asst. Moderator, D. A. Yoder; Secretary, Ira S. Johns; fourth and fifth members of the Executive Committee, D. D. Troyer and O. S. Hostetler.

The Executive Committee was given a vote of thanks by Conference members for their labors and efforts during the Conference year.

After a few well chosen remarks by the Moderator the Conference was closed with prayer led by O. S. Hostetler.

Ira S. Johns, Secretary.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Held with the Bowne Congregation, near Elmdale, Mich., June 6, 7, 1929

Conference was called to order by the Moderator, Bro. D. D. Miller. All sessions of Conference were opened with appropriate devotional services and prayer.

The Conference sermon was preached by Bro. B. B. King.

Text, I Cor. 3:9. It is important that Conference members come together. We need a touch of the divine power of the Lord. The charge the Lord has committed unto us needs to be impressed upon us. Husbandry implies the managing of the things of God in this world. Husbandry implies to go and gather in food for those of the household. We are not here to hold down a job, but we are here on the King's business. Eph. 4:11. God's call clearly shown. We are a gift to the Church. There is no compromise with Jesus Christ. He wants a complete surrender. If the Mennonite Church compromises on the doctrine of separation from the world, she will also let go of other doctrines, such as feet washing, devotional covering, etc.

The great enemies the Church must guard:

1. Sensuality.
2. Intellectuality.
3. Materialism.

We are living in a great age of extravagance.

The great sin of Israel always was, We want to be like other people.

The following brethren were called upon for testimony: Jonathan Kurtz, D. J. Johns, J. S. Hartzler, Jonas Loucks, Erie Bontrager, S. C. Miller (Jet, Okla.), Ernest Miller (Dhamtari, India), Menno Eash, Maurice O'Connell (Lima, Ohio), Silas Weldy, O. S. Hostetler, Floyd Weaver, James Mishler, Jonas Brubaker, Amos Hostetler.

The congregation gave testimony by rising.

At this time Bro. J. S. Hartzler stated that our aged brother, J. F. Funk, was ill at his home but that he had sent a message to Conference stating that even though he was unable to be present at Conference he would remember the work in prayer.

Moved and seconded that we the Indiana-Michigan Conference instruct Bro. J. S. Hartzler to carry our best wishes and greetings to Bro. J. F. Funk. So ordered.

The following subjects were discussed during this Conference:

Should a minister that does not share active responsibility in ministerial duties have a voice in Conference? Discussed by D. J. Johns.

Ans. Refer to Art. II, Sec. 6, of Constitution, Rules and Discipline.

Entertainment vs. Spirituality. Discussed by J. K. Bixler.

The individual who has the mind of Christ will not be satisfied with entertainment. Danger of getting too light and too fickle in our pulpit work. Word of God the greatest convicting power. How much that is really spiritual would our hearers get in a year if they got no more than we gave them from the pulpit?

Subject, **Power of the Separated Life.** Discussed by Edwin Yoder.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Yoder be asked to write his talk for publication in the Gospel Herald. So ordered.

Sister Gamber gave a short talk on mission work in the Argentine, S. A.

The Subject for the Thursday evening meeting was as follows: **The Christian's Responsibility:**

1. **The Ministry.** Discussed by C. L. Graber.
2. **The Laity.** Discussed by C. C. Culp.

Miscellaneous Business

During the called sessions of the Conference members and during the Conference sessions the following miscellaneous business was transacted, elections and appointments made, and resolutions passed.

The Minutes of the previous Conference were read and approved.

The complete minutes of the Executive Committee for the conference year 1928-29 were read.

Moved and seconded that we read all the minutes at one reading. Then reread minutes of one meeting at a time and give opportunity for questions. So ordered.

A question arose as to the holding of a deed for a cemetery located near Bowling Green, Ind. Moved and seconded that we instruct the next Executive Committee to look into this matter and make such disposition of this property as they deem advisable. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that we put the $115.00 received for the church at Bowling Green, Ind., into the District Mission Board Church Building fund. So ordered. Moved and seconded that we express our appreciation in the work that the Executive Committee has done in the matter between Bro. Ropp and Bro. Summers, and if there are any questions that any one has to bring, take them up with the Executive Committee, they to act as they think best. So ordered.

56 out of the 76 conference members responded to the roll call.

Moved and seconded that we receive the newly ordained ministering brethren, Dean Birky and Erie Bontrager, as members of this Conference. So ordered.

The Secretary gave the annual congregational report. There are 31 congregations with a total membership of 4250. This report was accepted.

In the absence of the Treasurer, his report was read by the

Secretary. Reported a balance in the treasury of $148.96. Report accepted.

The Moderator stated to the Conference that because of the General Conference being held in our district this fall we will not have a State Sunday School Conference this year.

The Moderator stated to the Conference when and where the General Conference will be held.

The method of electing officers of Conference was discussed at some length. Moved and seconded that officers of Conference be elected by majority vote. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that we have a nominating committee who shall put up nominees for all the remainder elections. The elections to be by majority vote. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that we elect 11 delegates to General Conference. So ordered.

By motion it was decided to have four delegates from Michigan and seven from Indiana.

Moved and seconded that we follow the regular order in the appointment of the nominating committee. So ordered.

A request came in from a number of congregations that we define our attitude on our brethren and sisters voting in political elections. After some discussion it was decided that we abide by our constitution on this matter.

Bro. D. J. Johns gave a report of his work at Salem, Nappanee, and Yellow Creek.

The Mission Superintendent gave his report. This report was accepted. This report is in the files of the Secretary of the District Mission Board.

The Secretary of the District Mission Board gave his report. Report accepted. This report is in the files of the Secretary of the District Mission Board.

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Executive Committee be approved as read.

The Secretary gave a report concerning the printing of the Conference minutes.

Moved and seconded that the congregation located at Pigeon, Mich., be granted the privilege of ordaining a deacon. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that we take an offering to help defray the expenses of caring for the Conference this year. So ordered.

Moved and seconded that Conference pay for the transportation of the tent to and from place of Conference. So ordered.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, our heavenly Father on Nov. 2, 1928, called unto

Himself our beloved Bro. Joseph Mishler, deacon in the Bowne Congregation, and,

Whereas, our brother's departure has not only left a vacancy in the home, but the congregation and the Conference have been bereft of a faithful colaborer, be it:

Resolved, that the Conference humbly bows to the will of our Father, and we hereby express our sympathy to the bereft family and to the congregation for their loss and we pray that our Father may guide in such a way that the official vacancy in the congregation may be filled again to His glory. Be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the family and the congregation, and also be spread upon the records of the Conference.

Whereas, the holding of this Conference in this congregation has brought heavy responsibilities upon the local congregation, which responsibilities were largely shared by others in the community, be it

Resolved, that this Conference hereby express its appreciation to the local brotherhood and especially to all others who so nobly assisted the brotherhood in this task, and we pray that God may richly reward all for their labors of love.

Elections and Appointments

Local Board Ft. Wayne Mission: Abner Holdeman, Ed Miller.

Members Educational Board: D. A. Yoder, Amos Hostetler.

Member Publication Board, C. L. Graber.

Member Board of Missions and Charities, J. K. Bixler.

Member on Committee of Arrangements for General Conference, D. D. Miller.

Delegates to General Conference from Michigan: C. C. Culp, S. J. Miller, M. S. Steiner, Clyde Kauffman.

Delegates to General Conference from Indiana: Homer North, Edwin Yoder, B. B. King, J. S. Hartzler, Silas Yoder, C. A. Shank, James Bucher.

Moderator, J. K. Bixler.

Assistant Moderator, D. D. Miller.

Secretary, Ira S. Johns.

Fourth and fifth members on Executive Committee: O. S. Hostetler, D. A. Yoder.

Treasurer, Henry B. Weaver.

Conference closed with prayer led by Bro. J. K. Bixler.

Ira S. Johns, Sec.

HISTORY OF CONGREGATIONS

(Brief historical sketches of Congregations Constituting the Indiana-Michigan Conference.)

BEREA CHURCH

Daviess Co., Ind.

Sometime during December of the year 1920 a family of Mennonites, Michael Waglers, who had moved from Oregon to Daviess Co., Ind., wrote a letter to the secretary of the Mission Board, J. K. Bixler, stating that there were five families who had withdrawn from the Old Order Amish Church, and were conducting a Sunday school by themselves, and desired help.

On Dec. 20, of the same year two members of the Mission Board, J. K. Bixler and S. L. Weldy, went to investigate. On the evening of Dec. 22 they had their services in the United Brethren church house, with fair attendance and good interest. They went to see the bishop of the Amish Church, but nothing definite was accomplished.

On Jan. 24, 1921, Bishops J. K. Bixler, D. D. Troyer, and Jonathan Kurtz went to Daviess county. The next afternoon they went to the bishop's home where they met all the ministry of the Amish church and two bishops from Illinois, Plank and Mast. The Amish ministry plead with them to try to get these members back.

On Jan. 26, they again met with the above-named and promised they would give the dissatisfied members two weeks' time to think it over. The next day all the dissatisfied members met at Ephraim Grabers and there were fully instructed in the doctrines and practices of the Mennonite Church, and given two weeks' time for consideration. Then if they desired to join the Mennonites they should sign a petition and they would be taken care of, but if they desired to go back to the Amish no harm would be done.

The Mission Board received the petition and on Feb. 25, Bro. Bixler accompanied by Amos Weldy went to Daviess county. Bro. Bixler preached at the United Brethren Church house in the evenings while there, also Sunday morning. On Sunday afternoon the church was organized at Jacob Swartz's home. The letters of Michael Wagler and wife were first accepted, then the five families were received and one applicant by baptism. Bro. Bixler was led to give an invitation and five responded. Since they had heard the instructions, they were also received by baptism. Com-

munion services were then held on March 1, 1921. Three trustees were chosen and later the name "Berea" was selected for the church. Amos Weldy decided to cast his lot with them and on May 12 moved into their community. The Mission Board promised to send a minister to Daviess Co., every four weeks.

In 1921 they had Sunday school in a school house, after which they rented the United Brethren church house up to 1925 at which time the Mission Board bought the lot and buildings for $700.00.

On Oct. 30, 1921, Bishops J. K. Bixler, D. J. Johns, and D. D. Troyer were in Daviess Co., and ordained Amos Weldy to the office of deacon. On Oct. 24, 1923, a minister, James Bucher and family, moved to Daviess Co., to take charge of this congregation.

At the time of the organization there were 19 members and at this writing there are 59 members.

BERNE CHURCH

Huron Co., Mich.

The first Mennonites that settled in Huron County, Michigan, were Bro. William Bechtel and wife from Ontario, date not known, and on Dec. 1, 1888 Bro. Peter Ropp and family from Ontario, moved to Huron Co., near Bay Port, Mich. The first services were held at the home of Bro. William Bechtel on Jan. 12, 1890; these services were conducted by Bro. Daniel Lehman from Fairgrove, Mich.

The organization of the congregation took place in the year 1894 at the home of Bro. John Oesch, by Bishop Daniel Wissmer from Berlin, Ontario, at which time thirteen families or 26 members were organized, they having Sunday school every Sunday in the homes of brethren and sisters, and preaching services every three months by the ministering brethren from Ontario. The first Sunday school superintendents elected by the church were brethren Elias Weidman and Joel Reist.

Bro. Samuel S. Bowman was sent over by the Ontario Conference to shepherd the flock in the year 1897, at which time the following trustees were elected, brethren Menno Wideman, Joseph Ropp, Joel Reist. The building of a church house was begun in April, 1897, and was dedicated in June, 1897. Dedication sermon was preached by Bro. Samuel S. Bowman in the German language, text Matt. 12:42, latter clause, and Bro. Moses Hondrich in the English, same text.

On July 5, 1897, Bro. Peter Ropp was chosen by lot and ordained minister, on the same date Bro. Menno Weidman was chosen by lot and ordained to the office of deacon. The ordination

services were conducted by Bishop Amos Cressman, from New Hamburg, Ontario, and Bro. Samuel S. Bowman from Ontario. The following bishops from the Ontario Conference served this congregation: Brethren Amos Cressman, New Hamburg; Jonas Snyder, Waterloo; Abram B. Gingerich, Elmira; and Daniel Wissmer, Berlin.

The first revival meetings held were conducted by Bro. David Garber beginning on Jan. 2, 1898, at which time fourteen souls confessed Christ, twelve were baptized and received into church fellowship.

In 1916 the Berne congregation was transferred from the Ontario Conference to the Indiana-Michigan Conference, at which time Bishop Menno Esch, Fairview, Mich., was appointed bishop of this congregation. In the year 1917 Bro. Peter Ropp moved to Imlay City, Mich., and Bro. Alfred Weidman was ordained minister to serve the congregation. The year 1923 the Deacon Bro. Menno Weidman passed to his eternal reward.

Bro. Alfred Weidman united with the Missionary Church near Elkton, Mich., in the year 1924, which left the congregation without a resident minister. The neighboring ministers served the congregation until April 4, 1926, Bro. S. J. Miller was ordained minister to serve the congregation. This ordination service was conducted by Bro. D. A. Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.

BETHEL CHURCH

Near Ashley, Mich.

Samuel Slagell and family were the first ones to move here in the spring of 1918. E. J. Slagel and family came the next year, 1919. D. S. Oyers and Joel Bachmans moved here in December, 1919. The following families arrived in the spring of 1920: J. J. Smiths, J. E. Neuhousers, Reuben Leidigs, Ray Bontragers, and George H. Summers.

In December, 1919, the families then at this place met at a home to organize a Sunday school. D. S. Oyer was the first superintendent. The Sunday school was started on Jan. 4, 1920, at the Dagget schoolhouse. Here also Bro. Summer preached his first sermon on March 14, 1920. Services were conducted at this place until December of that year, then changed to Washington Center church, but in April, 1921 the services were again changed to the Dagget schoolhouse.

The first series of meetings were held by Silas Weldy at the Washington Center church in January, 1921.

The congregation was organized under the Board, July 6,

1920, by the bishops D. J. Johns and Jacob K. Bixler, with 24 charter members.

In the spring of 1922 plans were made to build a new church house and the work of building began the same spring. The new church house was dedicated on October 8, 1922, and at that time three members were also added by baptism. Bishop D. D. Miller had charge of the services. D. S. Oyer was ordained deacon on May 28, 1923.

At the annual conference, 1923, we were placed on the independent list. D. D. Troyer was then appointed bishop of this congregation. The present membership (reported to last conference, 1928) is 83.

One of the main highways of Michigan, U. S. 27, is rerouted, and passes our church house, and when completed, will make it very convenient for all to attend any time of the year. I can not help but feel we were divinely directed in locating where we did. At the time we felt we ought to build somewhere near the schoolhouse where we first had meetings, but there seemed no place available. The door was closed there.

BETHANY CHURCH

Imlay City, Mich.

This congregation was organized in 1918, June 29, through the work of the Ind.-Mich. Mennonite Mission Board. In the previous year several families from the Berne congregation at Pigeon, Mich., moved into this place which was the particular cause for the opening of this field. Among the number having moved was Bro. Peter Ropp, formerly a minister with the Berne congregation. Bro. Ropp was given charge of the ministerial duties for the new organization. Later in the year 1919 in the month of September, Bro. Simon W. Sommer, minister at Sunny Side congregation near Comins, Mich., moved into this field, by certain action of the Mission Board and the Executive Committee of Conference, now also sharing responsibilities equal with Bro. Peter Ropp in looking after the needs of this congregation. Other families moved into this field from other communities of Mennonite settlements, the highest number of membership reached at any time in this congregation being 54. There were regular Sunday morning services held with Sunday school and preaching, also evening services.

In the month of June, 1926, Bro. Ropp was ordained by lot to the office of bishop for this congregation, serving under the directions of the District Mission Board. In the fall of 1928, Bro.

S. W. Sommer moved from this congregation to another open field near Berlin, O., assisting in the ministerial duties there. This leaves the congregation at Imlay City for the present with Bro. Ropp looking after the needs of the work, without the assistance of either minister or deacon.

In the beginning of this a church house formerly in use by the Baptist church was bought for the sum of $1.00, and moved a short distance to a suitable location where one and three fourth acres of ground was donated for church privileges, including a cemetery. This building after a small expenditure was considered worth several thousand dollars. In this the brotherhood was fortunate in having such a comfortable place of worship at so small a cost.

BOWER'S MENNONITE CHURCH

Clay and Owen Counties, Indiana

Our first record of Mennonites in Clay and Owen counties, Ind., is that Bishop Daniel Funk moved here from Ohio in 1853. At his death in 1859, he left a family of nine children most of whom became members of this congregation. Joseph Bixler, a minister from Pennsylvania, moved here in 1855 and soon after was ordained bishop, but returned to Ohio that same fall, his wife having died that summer.

A lot for a cemetery and church site was purchased in 1861, about three miles east of Clay City, and a house erected which was destroyed by a tornado in 1883. A new house was completed that fall and this house remained on the site until sold by our Conference on Sept. 11, 1928 for $115.00 and was then removed for a home.

Resident ministers known to have served this congregation in addition to the above are the following: Jacob Bowers; Michael Mishler, who was later ordained bishop; William Silvius, died 1865; Elias Mishler, died 1871; Jacob Hoffer, ordained May 19, 1872; Daniel Royer, grandson of Bishop Daniel Funk, ordained minister June 9, 1872, and bishop about 1881, he being the last resident bishop; and, Daniel Kinsport, who moved here from Illinois and was ordained about 1885. He was the last resident minister.

The names of two deacons are recorded, namely, Jacob Kilmer who in 1905 was in his 87th year, and George Funk, a brother of Bishop Daniel Funk, ordained Feb. 4, 1872, and died in 1896, aged 84 years.

Other members of the congregation whose names are known

are the following: Samuel Hostetler, Jacob and Sophia Boyer, Jacob and Catharine Miller, Eli Miller, Anna Grove, John and Catharine Royer, John, Peter, and Nicholas Bixler families, John Longenecker, William and George Markley, Abraham Detweiler, Abraham and Elizabeth Welty, David Welty, and Abraham and Sarah Funk. The last three members who were yet living in 1921 were Mary, second wife of Bishop Daniel Royer, and Joseph Royer and wife.

The numerical strength of the congregation in 1864 was 70 members. By 1884 this had dwindled to 20 members. No record of a Sunday school is given. Both the German and the English languages were used.

In October, 1883, while the new house was under erection, Bro. J. S. Coffman held meetings in the community. He stated that he was the second minister to visit this place for 15 years and that the congregation was mostly composed of aged people, that the young people took very little interest in the Church, and that the members were not blessed with this world's goods. The causes for decay are evident,—lack of coöperation from the stronger congregations, lack of executive ability, and real pastoral work.

BOWNE (MICH.) MENNONITE CHURCH

This congregation is located in Bowne Twp., Kent Co., Mich., hence the name. The first Mennonite settlers in this congregation came in the fall of 1865. Among them were Peter Keim, Alex. Stahl, Emanuel Weaver, and Herman Bentler. These came from Somerset Co., Pa. About the same time a few families moved here from Ontario. Among these was John Smith and his wife. The first services were held in Bro. Weaver's home in the spring of 1866. A little later, Bro. J. M. Brenneman of Allen Co., O., visited here and ordained Bro. Keim to serve as minister and Bro. Bentler as deacon. About one year later Bro. John Speicher who had moved here from Caledonia, Mich., was ordained to the ministry and two and one-half years after that, Bro. Speicher was ordained bishop of the congregation.

Sister Smith died in August, 1898, and was buried on the beautiful slope which now constitutes the Mennonite cemetery. The first church house was a log structure, and was built adjacent to the new cemetery, by the Mennonites and Dunkards, each using the house on alternate Sundays. This was about the year 1870. The two bodies used it in this way until 1879 when the Dunkards built their own place of worship. It was in this log house that Bro. J. S. Coffman held his first series of meetings about the year 1880. There were several confessions. Bro. Alex.

Stahl, the last survivor of the charter members passed to his reward a few years ago.

The land was covered with heavy timber and those pioneers worked long and hard cutting down the timber, piling up huge log-heaps, and burning up what would now be worth many thousands of dollars; but it is right in this locality where are found some of the best farms in the state.

In the sixty years and more since its organization, this congregation has seen some very dark days. Several times there were uprisings of some of the more liberal branches of Mennonites which came in and drew heavily on this congregation. At one time the membership was reduced to thirty-five, but in each case what looked like destruction, in the end proved to be only stepping stones to a stronger and better congregation. It is not liberality, but Christ that builds the Church. At this writing there are 106 communicant members here, while some of these liberal congregations composed of our former members are struggling for a mere existence, which is another proof that it takes more than mere liberty to build a congregation. With every loss, God has brought blessings to the congregation for being loyal to the tenets of the Gospel and the Church. The ministry list from the beginning to the present is as follows:

Peter Keim, ordained minister, 1866, died 1904.
Herman Beutler, ordained deacon, 1866, died 1905.
John P. Speicher, ordained minister, 1867, bishop, 1869, died —.
Isaac Weaver, ordained minister, 1891, died 1917.
Joseph Mishler, ordained deacon, 1900, died 1928.
Aldus Brackbill, ordained minister, 1908, moved away 1928.
J. P. Miller, bishop, moved here 1912, moved away 1917.
Eli Zook, deacon, moved here 1912, died 1923.
George Stahl, ordained deacon, still in the service.

At this writing (Jan., 1929) the congregation is without a resident minister. D. A. Yoder of Elkhart, Ind., has bishop oversight.

We are indebted very largely for this information to an article written by Bro. Samuel Speicher for the Rural Evangel in 1922.

BURR OAK CHURCH

Jasper-Newton Counties

The first information of any of our members living in Jasper-Newton Counties, was received by Bro. J. K. Bixler (then Sec. of Board) on April 7, 1918 from Bro. Niles Slabaugh. Bro. Bixler then wrote to Bro. Menno Chupp. Six members met with

Bro. Bixler and partook of communion with the Kouts congregation.

On May 18, 1918, Bro. Bixler first visited this field, preaching at the schoolhouse near Surrey. Sunday school was organized at this time with nine members. The Burr Oak schoolhouse was then used till September of the same year, when a vacant dwelling house was used for eighteen months.

On Nov. 6, 1918, Bro. S. L. Weldy began a nine-day series of meetings with three confessions but only one of these united with the church. On Dec. 19 the first communion was held and also baptismal services. During the first year two were received by baptism, two by letter, and two by confession.

In Oct., 1920, B. B. King held a series of meetings at the Parr church, which building the Board was considering to buy, but later withdrew their offer. They held union Sunday school with the Baptist people but this soon proved unsatisfactory. During this time the Board sent ministers once a month. During 1924 the few members decided to have their own Sunday school which was held in private homes.

In 1925 arrangements were made to build a place of worship. Two schoolhouses were bought. One was wrecked and hauled about twenty miles with teams from which, together with some new material, a house 24 x 38 was built with basement. The other schoolhouse was resold. The cost of building was $1300, of which $500 was furnished by the Jasper-Newton brethren. James Lane, a Catholic, donated the one-half acre on which the building stands. On Oct. 4, 1925, dedication and ordination services were held at which time Bro. Floyd Weaver of the Yellow Creek congregation was ordained. At this time there were 15 members.

In Dec., 1925, Bro. R. F. Yoder of the Salem congregation held meetings with 8 confessions. In Dec., 1926, Bro. C. C. Culp held meetings but no visible results. In Jan., 1928, Bro. R. F. Yoder held meetings with no visible results. During the regular services in the summer of 1928 there were 9 confessions. These all united with the church by baptism and confession.

The present membership is 38.

Visiting ministers and deacons during this time were: J. K. Bixler, Silas Weldy, Clarence Shank, B. B. King, Niles Slabaugh, J. S. Hartzler, Amos Nusbaum, D. D. Troyer, James Bucher, J. I. Berkey, Henry Weldy, D. J. Johns, Ira Johns, Henry Weaver, Henry McGowen, David Yoder, Jonas Loucks, Ray Yoder, Claude Culp, J. Z. Birky, Joe Horner, Noah King, Amos Weldy, David Yontz, Ralph Smucker, C. A. Hartzler, Maurice O'Connell and O. P. Grosh.

CLINTON FRAME CHURCH

The first religious service held in the state of Indiana by the Amish Mennonites was held on Easter day in the year 1842 at the home of Joseph Miller about one mile from where the present Clinton Frame Mennonite church house is located. Four families from Somerset Co., Pa., had located in this community, namely, Joseph and Daniel Millers and Joseph and Christian Bontregers. If I am rightly informed Bro. Isaac Schmucker was present and conducted this first service. Some time later Joseph Miller was ordained to the ministry and had charge of the little flock which grew quite rapidly and spread to La Grange county. Other ordinations followed. Bro. Joseph Miller moved to La Grange Co., and Jonas Troyer became bishop of the Clinton Frame congregation; John Smiley, minister; and Daniel Schrock, deacon.

People moving in from different localities brought different ideas which finally resulted in a division. This was far reaching and caused a concern throughout the churches east and west. Several Conferences were called to consider problems. The third of these was held in the Clinton district at the home of Bro. Daniel Schrocks in June, 1864. At this meeting there were present 63 bishops, ministers, and deacons. The main object was to maintain the peace of the church.

About this time Bro. Troyer moved to Stark Co., Ind., and Bishop Benjamin Schrock from Miami Co., Ind., moved into the Clinton district and took bishop oversight. At this time apparently peace was established in this congregation and work went on quite well. In about 1875 Sunday school was organized and soon English classes were formed and the call came for English preaching. Consequently on May 28, 1882, D. J. Johns was ordained. The church grew in numbers but seemingly not all were fully yielded to God and the church and differences were evident. The church decided to ordain a younger man to the office of bishop. On Oct. 5, 1887, Bro. Johns was called to this office, but this did not altogether solve the problem. Difficulties became more and more acute until in the spring of 1892 when about one fourth of the congregation withdrew and organized what is known as the Silver Street church. This left the church in need of ministerial help and on Sept. 23 of the same year Bro. D. D. Troyer was ordained.

On Oct. 7, 8 of the same year the first Sunday School Conference held in the United States was held with the Clinton Frame congregation. At this meeting the mission spirit was quickened and resulted in starting mission activities in which this congregation has always taken an active part. At present regular monthly offerings are taken for the support of this work, besides the sup-

port of orphans and Bible women. While no one went out from this congregation to the foreign field it has responded to several calls from the home field.

A call came from the Evangelizing Board and Bro. Silas Yoder was ordained on April 9, 1905. About this time the church felt the real need of a deacon and on July 18, 1909, Ira S. Johns was called to this office. He served in this capacity till again a call came from the Mission Board for ministerial help in the conference district and he was called to the ministry April 27, 1924. There was also a call for Bro. D. D. Troyer to be ordained bishop to help take care of the rural mission work and for Bro. Clyde X. Kauffman to be ordained to take charge of the little flock at Brutus, Mich. This was granted and they were ordained Nov. 9, 1920. Thus this congregation has yielded four of its active members as ministers to help in the rural field, also two sisters are engaged in city mission work; viz, Rhea Yoder at Portland, Oreg., and Mary Richer at Toronto, Ont.

After the above ordinations the congregation was again without a deacon. Bro. David Yontz was called Jan. 11, 1924 and is now serving in this capacity. This congregation was also active in the organization of the Indiana Conference and the General Conference. May it continue to take an active part in all of God's work.

DETROIT MISSION

During the past number of years Mennonites seemingly have been going toward the cities. This seems to have been the case in this city for the past ten years. A number of our people have been coming to the city to seek better paying positions. This fact, however, has provoked thought on the part of various Mission Boards so much so that they are considering how they might hold these people for the church.

About three years ago Bro. Peter Ropp moved to Detroit to find better employment for a while at least. He saw that there were a number of our people here who were without a church; therefore, he began church and Sunday school work as soon as a suitable place could be found to worship in. Services began Dec. 1, 1926. After Bro. Ropp had started the work here, the call from the home church was apparently urgent and he appealed to the Indiana-Michigan Mission Board for some one to take his place. The Indiana-Michigan Board in coöperation with the General Board set out to find some one to take the place of Bro. Ropp. The call came to Bro. and Sister Clarence C. King to carry on

this work. They arrived in the city March 6, 1927. At that time there were a number of problems to be solved as to a home for the workers and furnishings for the home which made it necessary for several brethren to spend considerable time in gathering things together for the home. Then came the problem of a building other than a dwelling house to worship in. This was taken up with the Indiana-Michigan Board at the June, 1927 Board Meeting. At that time they passed on the recommendation suggested as to the building of a church home for the people in Detroit. The work of building did not start until the last week in August of 1927. The building was dedicated on Oct. 30 of that year and these people had a real church home for the first time since they lived in Detroit.

When Bro. and Sister King arrived the work was not organized in any way. There were only two Sunday school teachers, the former pastor, and another, a sister who was teaching the children. For a time the pastor was chorister, superintendent of Sunday school, leader of the young people's meeting, teacher, janitor, etc. Later as a trial several brethren were selected to assist in this work until the time would come when there could be a permanent organization effected. The first Sunday that the present pastor was here there were only about 10 or 15 children in Sunday school, but by summer of that year the Sunday school had more than doubled itself. The adults were being called upon to define their relation with the church, for some had been away from the church for a period of seven years. Others were entreated to accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior. Up until this time nearly all of those who have stood in the meetings or privately confessed their need of Jesus, have united with the church.

At present the enrollment of the Sunday school is about 60 with an attendance of about forty. There are five services held on Sunday: two preaching services, morning and evening, Sunday school, Junior Meeting, and Christian workers' meeting. During the week there are two meetings held, on Thursday and Friday nights. On Thursday evening we have a prayer meeting and Bible study, at which time some book of the Bible is studied to find the practical values of God's dealing with people. At present we are studying the book of Isaiah. The meeting on Friday night is a teachers' training class, where an effort is put forth to train those who come into the church and are willing to be used as teachers in the Sunday school.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clarence C. King.

EMMA MENNONITE CHURCH

As a matter of convenience to the distant members of the Forks and Shore churches, it was decided to build a church house near Emma, Indiana. The building was located about 30 rods north of the Emma store. The building was largely financed by the immediate community.

The Emma Mennonite Church was organized in the year of 1901. The work for the first year was in charge of the ministry of the Shore congregation. Sunday school and church services were held in the forenoons of every other Sunday. On the intervening Sundays, Sunday school was held in the evening with no church service. The organization consisted of forty members. Bro. Oscar S. Hostetler was elected the first Sunday school superintendent and Bro. John J. Troyer was elected assistant superintendent. Services were held in this manner for about one year.

In 1902 steps were taken for the ordination of a resident minister and deacons. On October 15, Bro. Oscar S. Hostetler was ordained minister and Menno J. Yoder was ordained deacon. This district being without a bishop the services of bishops outside the district were secured for a period of about two years. In the fall of 1903 Bro. John Garber was ordained bishop for this church and the Shore and Clinton Brick congregations.

In the same year 1903, the church thought it advisable to organize themselves and hold evening meetings for their young people. As far as I could find these meetings were organized for two reasons: First, since the young people were going somewhere on Sunday evenings, they should have a good wholesome place to go; second, to develop the talents of the young people for future use. Bro. John J. Troyer was chosen the first moderator of the meetings. The regular Y. P. M. Topics found in the Gospel Heralds and Christian Monitors were used. Sunday school and church services were now held every Sunday forenoon.

In 1923 Bro. John Garber asked the church to consider the ordination of Bro. Hostetler to the office of bishop. After considerable time was given for consideration the church voiced in favor of the ordination and also for the ordination of a minister at the same time. On May 13, 1923 Oscar S. Hostetler was ordained bishop and Bro. Menno Yoder was ordained minister. This left the church without a deacon. The year following, June 29, Amos O. Hostetler was ordained deacon. Thus the ministry stands at the present time.

To-day there is a total membership of 149. Services are held every Sunday forenoon and evening. The church house has a seating capacity of about eight hundred people. It is still setting on the first foundation with a number of changes and improvements to the building.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH

In 1900 the first Mennonites settled near what is now Fairview, Mich. Among those families who came in that year and the year following were John Stutzmans, Noah Yoder, Levi Kauffman, and Jeff Miller from Indiana.

These families lived as real pioneers since there was little cleared land for them to get their living from, and they were handicapped socially as neighbors were few and far between. In 1901 E. A. Troyer of Howard Co., Ind., came to this place and taught school but the first year of his teaching was in schools so far distant that he had no means of communicating with these other families, but in the fall of 1902 and spring of 1903 he taught in the Fairview district and during this time they all felt the need of having a Sunday school. The Methodists held services regularly at the Fairview schoolhouse but had no Sunday school, so a Mr. White of Alpena came and helped them to organize a Union Sunday school with E. A. Troyer, Supt., and chorister; Chris Yoder, assistant; Lilly Yoder (now Miller), Sec.-treas. The Sunday school was divided into three classes. They sent for song books and met once a week to practice singing. This continued until in October of 1903 when Pre. E. A. Bontrager and family of Nappanee, Ind., moved here. It was then decided that preaching services should follow Sunday school each Sunday. When the New Year came Sunday school was reorganized and was now called Mennonite instead of Union.

In January of 1904, Pre. D. J. Johns of Goshen, Ind., was asked to come and hold revival meetings and also organize the members into a church body. These meetings were all held in the Gusler schoolhouse which was made of logs. This was in the cold winter weather but the attendance was good. By this time more families had moved in and at the time the church was organized there were 35 charter members. These came from the families of Noah Yoder, Levi Kauffman, E. A. Bontrager, Dan Hershberger, Jeff Miller, A. A. Miller, John Stutzman, Chris Troyer, Silas Hershberger, E. A. Troyer, and others. There were 5 converts as one result of this first revival meeting. In the spring baptismal services were held and these 5 were baptized in a stream west of the present Fairview.

D. J. Johns had the bishop oversight of this church but as his home was in Indiana he gave E. A. Bontrager the right to do the work of a bishop in his absence.

During the late winter of 1903—1904, Pre. Isaac Miller of Illinois moved here. He was not well but helped in the church work as much as he was able. He died in the early summer of 1904.

During the summer of 1904 the first church house was built and some help to pay for same was received from churches in other states.

Soon after this Menno Steiner who moved here from Illinois was ordained deacon and is still serving the church.

In 1906 Pre. N. Z. Yoder of Tennessee moved here and helped with the church work until he died in 1918.

At this time the Loud Lumber Company of Au Sable were doing all they could to colonize this district and many men responded to the literature which was sent out by them to many parts of the United States and Canada to arouse interest in this section. Some men who came liked it well enough to buy a tract of land and bring their families here to their new homes while others did not. The company provided the land seekers with a wagon, team, and guide to help them see as much of this district as possible while here. For several years this wagon with its occupants could be seen daily going from the railroad station at Comins toward Fairview, and as a result of this the membership of the church was increased so that by 1910 there were nearly 200 members. Some of the hindrances which these early pioneers met with were: (a) not much capital to begin with, (b) large families to support, (c) small tracts of land upon which to raise produce, (d) few main roads, (e) poor market for any cash crop.

This little band of people was without services for quite a while and much thanks is due to the leadership of E. A. Troyer in the help he gave in establishing Sunday school until E. A. Bontrager was located here to become the church leader. Bro. Troyer worked faithfully in all of the capacities of the Sunday school, as superintendent or assistant superintendent, teacher, moderator of Y. P. M., and secretary-treasurer of the church, at different intervals until he moved to Indiana in 1919.

As the work grew and the congregation increased more help was needed and so in 1906 Menno Esch was ordained as minister. After this Pre. Bontrager did a great deal of missionary work in preaching in communities where there were no churches, or preaching in such places as the Kittle schoolhouse, Red Oak, Lewiston, Comins, and Hardy. He also did evangelistic work in other states.

As the settlers came and settled north of Comins they needed a church there. Consequently, one was built, but they had no minister so their pulpit was supplied from Fairview congregation. Levi A. Kauffman of Fairview was later ordained to fill that pulpit regularly and he did this until he moved away. In 1909 Menno Esch was ordained bishop.

The first church house was soon too small so an addition of

20 feet was built to it. The question of raising and putting a basement under it was being discussed when it was burned. This was a dreadful experience to all the members.

Plans were made to rebuild but were hindered some by not being able to get lumber as it was during the war. During this time Sunday school and church services were held in the Gusler schoolhouse, a new frame building.

Before winter set in the basement of the new church was finished and could be used for services. The main part of the building was finished the next summer and dedicated by J. K. Bixler. As E. A. Bontrager moved to Midland, Mich., in 1917 we soon needed another minister so Moses S. Steiner was ordained and is still serving in this capacity.

D. J. Johns was the first evangelist and one of the two instructors at our first Bible Conference, an occasion which was looked forward to by all every winter. The first Sunday school meeting was held in 1909 and has been an annual meeting ever since. The Church Conference of Indiana-Michigan district was held here in June of 1912 and the Sunday School Conference was held here in Aug., 1927. The activities of our church besides Sunday school are, Bible reading, sewing circle, young people's class meeting, and teachers' meeting. By looking at the results that have come from the faithful efforts made by all the leaders of the church and especially those who had the burdens of the early inconveniences we can see that God's never-failing blessings have been poured out on this church during shadows and sunshine, joys and sorrows, trials and encouragements, and to God we express our feeble thanks.

FORKS CHURCH

Lagrange Co., Ind.

History of the Forks Mennonite Church, located about five miles southeast of Middlebury, Ind., in Lagrange Co., was one among the first Amish Mennonite Churches organized in this state. According to information gleaned from the few old settlers living yet, all the families (called Amish Mennonites) were from the Old Order Church, and most of them settled in Clinton Twp., Elkhart Co., although some families located in Lagrange Co. This took place during the years 1850—1855. From then on there was more or less strife, as some of the brethren or preachers could not see alike; consequently some of the families left the Old Order Church and started a church of their own, but still held their meetings in private homes. The first few years they just met in Elk-

hart Co., but some of the families of Lagrange Co., went over and helped along in their church work. And they also invited them over to their homes to have services.

The first preaching services were held (what is now called Forks Mennonite Church) at the home of Joseph Hershberger, who lived one mile north and one and one fourth miles east of the present location of the Church. That was in the year 1857. The brethren Christian Plank and Christian Miller were the first ministers, and, if we are correct, Bishop Jonas Troyer had oversight of the church till 1887, when Bro. D. J. Johns was ordained bishop for the Clinton Frame church and also had charge of the Forks church as bishop. He filled this place till in the year 1906, when Bro. D. D. Miller was ordained bishop. Bro. Miller is at present bishop for the Forks, Middlebury, Goshen, and Kouts congregations. They held their services in private homes from 1857—1864, when they erected the first (Forks) church house. This is still in use, but as a tool and auto shed by our bishop, Bro. D. D. Miller.

In later years as the congregation grew in numbers and often the house was filled to capacity, I remember of hearing Bro. D. J. Johns one Sabbath after his sermon speak about having a larger building. He said that it was not that this was not good enough for him, but different people told him they would like to go to Forks church too, but there was no room. In the year 1893 a new building 40 x 70 was put up. In 1915 the house was remodeled inside with a basement added and a furnace installed. In 1926 the furnace was replaced by a new one. The church was reroofed and repainted. Early Sunday morning, Sept. 18, 1927, the house was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. This was quite a shock to us, but the present building was erected and on Jan. 15, 1928, we had our first services.

As Bro. Plank and Bro. Miller were ordained before they left the Old Order branch, the first minister that was ordained after they had a church house was Bro. Joseph J. Bontrager. He was ordained on June 2, 1867. There were three brethren in the lot, one of them still a member of our church, but the oldest one at present, namely, Moses J. Miller. Bro. Bontrager served the church for a number of years. Later some difficulties arose which caused him to leave the church. He started what is now called the conservative branch.

The next ordination was that of Bro. Joseph D. Miller, which took place on June 19, 1886. He served the church about fifteen years. He died Jan. 14, 1901. Ed Gegax was ordained as a minister on April 24, 1887, but he left the church soon after. In 1890 or '91 Bro. D. D. Miller was ordained deacon and a year later

ordained minister. I might write a short history of his life, but space will not permit. I do not believe there is a preacher better known among the Mennonite Churches than Bro. Miller. If I am not mistaken Bro. Eli Miller moved in here from Ohio and helped along in preaching the Word. Perhaps the last fifteen years of his life we did not hear him very often as he was a very old man and also had moved over into the Clinton district. He died March 1, 1917. Bro. D. J. Johns and Bro. D. D. Miller preached the funeral sermon. Bro. Christian Plank died Jan. 2, 1887; aged 68 years and Bro. Christian Miller died July 25, 1891; aged 73 years. Bro. D. J. Johns preached both funeral sermons.

Bro. Andrew J. Hostetler was ordained deacon, Oct. 25, 1896. In 1902 or '03 he made his church home in Middlebury. S. S. Yoder who was ordained deacon, May 17, 1903, left in 1905 or '06. On June 12, 1904, S. E. Weaver was ordained minister, which place he filled till the year 1916, when he asked to be relieved of his office as minister. He preached his last sermon on June 4, 1916, and on July 23, 1916 his wish was granted. This was a very touching hour for the congregation. On Good Friday, April 13, 1906, there were two ordinations, Bro. J. Y. Hooley was chosen deacon and Bro. D. D. Miller, bishop. They are the only ones behind the pulpit at present. The next one to be chosen from our congregation for minister was Bro. Ernest E. Miller. He was ordained as a missionary to India in 1918, but on account of war conditions they did not sail till April 19, 1921. On June 12, 1921, Bro. Wilbur Miller was ordained minister. However, in a few years Bro. Miller left the congregation, leaving our older brethren to serve alone.

FT. WAYNE CHURCH

The beginning of the work at Ft. Wayne dates back about 45 years, when Bro. and Sister J. B. Federspiel of Gar Creek, Indiana moved here. They saw the need of a work being opened and prayed for twenty years before their prayers were answered. As ministers would pass through the city they would occasionally stop and conduct services. Among those who rendered such service were Eli Stoffer of Hudson, Ind., Christ Brenneman of Elida, O., John and Noah Blosser and later M. S. Steiner of Columbus Grove, Ohio.

In the year 1903, M. S. Steiner investigated this field and a Sunday school was opened in an upstairs room on Hanna Street. In the summer of 1903, Bro. J. F. Bressler was appointed the first superintendent, and was later in the same year assisted by L. S. Yoder of Nappanee, Ind.

In the spring of 1904 the work was moved to a building on the Corner of Oliver St., and East Creighton Ave., and the work was continued here for about a year and a half. In the fall of 1904, Joseph Bontrager and B. B. King of West Liberty, Ohio, came to the city to assist in the work. In the fall of that year L. J. Lehman of Cullom, Ill., held the first revival meetings and baptized the first converts at the Mission, Bro. and Sister Martin. Bro. Martin was ordained deacon in the year 1907.

Among the converts of this first revival are the names of some familiar faces about the mission to-day, namely, Phoebe Martin, better known as Grandma Martin; Ivory and Dora Moore.

In July, 1905 B. B. King was ordained to the ministry and was appointed superintendent of the work. He has with the exception of one year had charge of the work. In the year of his absence Bro. J. M. Hartzler and John Byler had charge of the work.

In the fall of 1905 a new building was erected at 1209 St. Mary's Ave. In nine years the work had outgrown the capacity of the building, so that in 1914 the present church building was erected.

In the spring of 1924 Bro. Perry A. Heller was ordained to the ministry to assist in the work.

Among the workers who were stationed here for a period of time were, J. F. Bressler, Levi Yoder, Joe Bontrager, Lydia Huber, Malinda King, Nettie Culp Wyse, John Thut, Mary Shank, John Byler, Anna Hoover, Della Bickel, Claud Culp, Emma Haibig Culp.

Among the evangelists who labored here are the names of L. J. Lehman, Abram Metzler, Noah Metzler, A. C. Good, C. F. Derstine, Oscar Burkholder, E. B. Stoltzfus, B. B. Stoltzfus, Ray Yoder, John Blosser, Noah Blosser, Enos Hartzler, J. L. Stauffer, S. E. Allgyer, and Noah Troyer.

GOSHEN COLLEGE CHURCH

Goshen College began as a Mennonite college in Goshen, on Sept. 29, 1903. Until this time there had been no congregation representing the main body of American Mennonites in the city of Goshen. However there were numerous Mennonite congregations in the rural districts surrounding Goshen, and a few members had lived in the city before 1903. The occasion for the beginning of a congregation was the coming of the college to Goshen at this time.

During the summer of 1903 preaching services were held in the Christian Church. When the college opened in September,

Sunday school was organized with N. E. Byers as superintendent. Regular preaching services also were held from the time school opened. Meetings were first held in the dining hall of what was then the girls' dormitory. As soon as the main administration building of the college was completed early in 1904, Sunday school and preaching services were held there.

The formal organization of a congregation took place on Dec. 8, 1903. At that time J. S. Hartzler, then instructor in Bible at the college, became pastor of a joint congregation composed of members of the Amish Mennonite and Mennonite conferences. For a series of years the general oversight of the congregation was in the hands of two bishops, D. J. Johns and David Burkholder. These men represented the two participating conferences. This plan continued until 1917, when the two conferences united, at which time D. D. Miller became the bishop in charge of the congregation. The congregation numbered 57 charter members. By the end of the school year, in June, 1904, this number had increased to 129. Pastors of the congregation up to the present time have been J. S. Hartzler, I. W. Royer, Paul E. Whitmer, George J. Lapp, I. R. Detweiler, A. E. Kreider (acting), and Noah Oyer.

This congregation, known as the College Mennonite Congregation, never has built a meeting house, but uses the main auditorium in the Administration Building of the college, for its place of public worship. Preaching services are conducted each Sunday. There is a well organized Sunday school, using graded lessons, and organized with separate departments for the different groups of children as needed. From the beginning a Young People's Meeting has been held on Sunday evenings. Very early a weekly Cottage Prayer Meeting was started. Recently this has been revived as a bi-weekly meeting. Once a month during the school year a vesper service, composed of music and an inspirational address, or a sermon, is now held at 4:00 P. M., on Sunday, with no evening service. Numerous prayer services, Bible study groups, mission study classes, and other religious group meetings are held during the week for instruction and for inspiration, especially among the student members. The Young People's Christian Association is organized in the student body to supervise the religious work among the students. For many years E. J. Zook had been superintendent of the Sunday school. Other superintendents of recent years have been H. S. Bender and J. S. Umble, with J. S. Umble holding that office at present. The Sunday school enrollment is 322. The congregation at present (January 15, 1929) numbers 150 permanent resident members. Noah Oyer, dean of the college, has been pastor of the congregation since the fall of 1924.

HOLDEMAN CHURCH

Elkhart Co., Indiana

About the year 1850 the first Mennonites settled west of Wakarusa. Among them we find George, Samuel, John, and Joseph Holdeman, John Davidhizer, David Lechlictner, Abraham Weldy, and soon after his father, John Weldy, Henry and John Smeltzer, Jacob and John Brenneman, Jacob Loucks, John Freed, Jacob Freed, and some others.

In 1851 a lease was granted for church building purpose, one mile west and one fourth mile north of Wakarusa on the east side of the road. The same year a log building was erected. Meetings prior to this time had been held every four weeks in private homes.

The first ministers were Jacob Freed, who came from Holmes Co., Ohio; Benjamin Hershey from Ontario, who moved to Illinois later; and John Bear. Daniel Moyer is supposed to have been the first minister ordained in the state. His ordination was in the year 1850. He died in a railroad wreck at Osseo, Mich., Dec. 21, 1864.

Jacob Wisler was the first Mennonite bishop in the state. He came to Indiana from Ohio in 1848, and located near Yellow Creek where he officiated.

In 1858 Daniel Brundage, a minister, came from Ontario. In 1868 he moved to Morgan Co., Mo., and later to Kansas, returning again about 1875.

The deacons were John Oyer, who later united with the Evangelical Church. John Truxel, and Jacob Wisler. Joseph Holdeman was the first deacon ordained for this place. He died Aug., 1894. Daniel Freed was ordained deacon, June 18, 1881, and died in 1897. April 4, 1886, Abraham Culp was ordained deacon and Amos Mumaw, minister. Bro. Mumaw moved to Wayne Co., Ohio in 1898. Bro. Culp died Nov. 4, 1910. The present deacons are Samuel Smeltzer, who was ordained April 16, 1898, and J. I. Weldy, ordained Feb. 8, 1913.

In 1864 Daniel Brenneman, a minister from Ohio, came to the community, and was a great help to the church.

Jacob Beutler with his family and mother came from Ohio in 1864 and was ordained to the ministry, March 19, 1868. Sunday school was started about this time, some preaching was done in English, and English song books came into use. These things, however, displeased the bishop and in 1871 Bro. Wisler drew off and started the Wisler church.

Daniel Brenneman who favored more aggressive work with revival meetings, took with him whom he could and in 1874 the M. B. C. Church was started.

After the secession of Jacob Wisler, Bishop John M. Brenneman from Elida, Ohio, officiated here until Oct. 14, 1872, when John Christophel and Jacob Beutler were both ordained as bishops at a conference at Yellow Creek. These brethren faithfully worked together, stood by the Conference, and held together the greater part of the original body. Bro. Beutler died Nov. 3, 1886.

In 1875 the present church building, a frame structure, was built on the west side of the road and raised and rebuilt in 1913.

Jacob Loucks was ordained a minister, Oct. 20, 1887, but never took up active duties.

On Feb. 3, 1889 Bro. Henry Weldy, who is one of the present ministers, was ordained.

John Hygema was ordained a minister, Aug. 27, 1893; died June 20, 1908.

Jacob K. Bixler was ordained a minister, Apr. 23, 1904, and to the office of bishop, Nov. 3, 1907. He moved to Elkhart in 1914.

David Yoder was ordained to the ministry July 14, 1907, and to the office of bishop, Sept. 1, 1910. He located with the Olive congregation in 1908.

Silas Weldy, a present minister, was ordained Dec. 20, 1908.

There are at present 285 members and a total Sunday school enrollment of 334.

HOPEWELL CHURCH

Near Kouts, Indiana

The first Mennonite families of our branch at Kouts, Ind., were John J. Reinhardt and Lee Suter who came from Hopedale, Ill., March 1, 1916. Later additions to the colony were the families of William Martin in 1917, those of Andrew Gingerich, Andrew Gut, and Dean, Lewis, and William Birky in 1918, and Benjamin and Amos Birky, Vorrey Fleener and Lloyd Yoder in 1919. These colonists came from Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and Indiana.

For two years a union Sunday school with the members of the Central Conference of Mennonites was conducted at the homes and a few schoolhouses, but in the spring of 1918, it was deemed advisable for each branch to organize separately. Bishop John C. Birky from Delavan, Ill., and his co-laborer Simon Litwiller had charge of the church work until September, 1918, when the work was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Mission Board, with Jacob K. Bixler as bishop. Ministers were sent in regularly until the ordination of James Bucher, who had also located with them, to the ministry on March

5, 1920. A few years later, he moved to Daviess Co., Ind. During that spring of 1920, Bishop Jacob D. Birky from Nebraska located here and served the congregation until his death July 12, 1926. Jacob Z. Birky was ordained deacon Feb. 11, 1923 and is the present deacon. After the death of Bishop Birky, the congregation was without a resident minister until the ordination of Dean Birky (a son of the former bishop) on July 15, 1928. D. D. Miller has the bishop oversight at present.

On Feb. 4, 1919, the Mission Board purchased a lot just south of the town for a church site and a church house 36 x 50 feet in size with full basement and balcony was erected and dedicated on Sept. 28th of that year. The congregation was granted its independence from the Mission Board in 1923.

The first accessions to the congregation by baptism were on May 19, 1919 when six young men were received. The present membership is 82.

HOWARD-MIAMI CHURCH

The first Amish settlers (as they were then called) arrived in Howard and Miami counties in 1848. They came from Holmes and Tuscarawas counties, Ohio. Three families came the first year: Abraham Hostettlers in March, Peter Stinemans in July, and Jacob Shrocks in September. Other families came and consequently a church was soon organized which met every two weeks in private homes with John Benjamin Shrock and Bishop John Smucker as ministers. Several families also moved northeast of Peru but failed to organize a church there so they united with other denominations.

In 1854 the church was divided into the Amish and Amish Mennonites (as they were called till the two conferences united) with John Smucker as the Amish minister and John Benjamin Shrock the Amish Mennonite minister. This division was general at a number of places and came about largely on account of modern inventions such as windmills, etc. Soon Joseph Kennedy was ordained minister in the Amish Mennonite Church but he did not preach very long until he was released of his ministry. He soon afterwards left the church and united with the Dunkards. John Benjamin Shrock moved to Elkhart Co., Ind., thus leaving the Amish Mennonites without a minister for some time. Soon the members got together at a schoolhouse and each read a verse from the Bible, all in German, which left out the younger generation whose education was practically all in English.

In 1860 Nobert Sproal was ordained to the ministry and soon afterwards Daniel Miller was also ordained to the same office.

Both of these ordinations were by lot. The latter was soon ordained bishop. About this time Absalom Miller was ordained deacon.

Until the year 1866 church was held in private homes, but in that year they began holding services in a schoolhouse nearly one-half mile south of the present church house. By this time several young people who had worked in other Mennonite communities united with the church and coming back here taught singing school on the Sundays when there were no church services. Among these were three of the Shrock brothers, sons of Jacob Shrock. These singings were conducted in the English language, which met with much opposition among the older people.

In 1869 Benjamin Shrock, son of Jacob Shrock, was ordained to the ministry, which office he filled till his death in April, 1878.

In 1871 the first church house was built, but services were still held every two weeks.

Sometime in the sixties another minister named Christian Smucker moved here and lived with one of his children. While he sometimes read an opening chapter he never preached. He finally died here.

The first Sunday school was organized in the schoolhouse near the church in 1865 with Nobert Sproal as superintendent. The primary object of this school was to teach the German language. At this time it was only held during the summer time and some summers following they had no Sunday school.

In February, 1887, J. S. Coffman came here for the first time but soon made other visits, preaching a number of sermons. He soon got the church to holding services every Sunday and in a short time Sunday school was held the year round.

In 1881 E. A. Mast was ordained to the ministry and in 1889 he was ordained bishop. In the same year (1889), J. S. Horner was ordained to the ministry.

In 1888 the old church house was sold to the Dunkard Brethren and moved away and a new one was built.

In 1892 J. S. Coffman held the first revival meetings with 26 converts, nearly all young people.

In 1898 the deacon, Absalom Miller, died so in the same year Noah W. King was ordained deacon.

In 1903 J. S. Horner moved to Chief, Michigan. The June following Nathaniel Troyer was ordained to the ministry but he soon moved away and united with the Dunkard Brethren. In Nov., 1904, Niles M. Slabaugh was ordained to the ministry. J. S. Horner later, about 1911, moved back to this congregation.

In 1904 Daniel Kauffman and M. S. Steiner held our first Bible conference.

Young people's meetings were started in about 1889 but since there were practically no young people in the church until 1893 when 26 accessions were made and because simply chapters were studied these meetings were called Bible Readings.

During the summer of 1923 Dr. George and Katie Troyer volunteered for foreign missionary work and in the following October he was ordained to the ministry to go to India where they have labored since.

The present church house has been twice rebuilt once in 1906 and again in 1914.

The present church membership is 301 with five additional applicants for baptism.

The writer obtained most of his information of the early history from his parents, Samuel and Lydia Slabaugh, she being past 83 years old and the only member living who came here with the first Mennonite settlers.

Niles M. Slabaugh, Kokomo, Ind.

LEO CHURCH

The history of the Mennonite church at Leo, Indiana dates from 1861. Some of the first families were Christ Egly, Christ Ramsire, Jacob Stoll, and Nickolas Leichty. They worshiped in their homes, having no local minister, for at least a space of ten years, getting assistance from other localities. The first assisting minister, was Isaac Smucker, from Lagrange Co., Ind. Other assisting ministers were John B. King, Christ Yoder, and Jonas Yoder, all from Logan Co., Ohio.

The first local minister to serve the church was Christ Lugbill, from the year 1875 until death called him in the year 1880. The Lugbill family immigrated from France. After the death of Christ Lugbill, his son John Lugbill was ordained minister. In the same year (1880) Eli Yoder was also ordained to the ministry and soon after was ordained to the office of bishop, serving the church in this capacity until about 1906.

While these people still worshiped in their homes a Sunday school was started in the year 1875, having Sunday school one Sunday and preaching services the next.

The first church house was built on the bank of the St. Joseph River about one and one half-miles southeast of Leo, Ind., in the year 1887. This house was used until 1917 at which time a church house was purchased in the village of Leo, Indiana.

It was about the year 1905 when this church was united with the Amish Mennonite Indiana-Michigan Conference. After uniting with the conference Bro. Jonathan Kurtz of Topeka, Indiana was

given bishop charge of this church. He served in this capacity for nearly twenty years. When the church united with the conference the membership was about 85.

From 1906 to 1910 this church had no local minister. Deacon Christ Leichty served a number of years, and then moved to North Dakota. During these four years the church was supplied by ministers from other localities in the conference district. In the spring of 1910 Andrew S. Miller was ordained minister, and soon after John Lugbill was ordained deacon, who served faithfully until death in 1926. In the year 1921 Jos. S. Neuhouser was ordained minister, and in 1926 Simon H. Beck was ordained deacon.

Young people's meeting was started about the year 1907 at which time it was called Bible reading.

Since about 1912 Sunday school and preaching have been held every Sunday.

The present membership is about 180 members.

MAPLE GROVE CHURCH

It was in 1853 that the first Amish Mennonite settlers came to the vicinity called the Hawpatch around Topeka, Ind., from Fairfield Co., Ohio. The following year the Maple Grove Amish Mennonite church was organized and the first meeting was held at the home later known as the Jonathan E. Yoder homestead. The first minister was Joseph Yoder, who was ordained in Fairfield Co., Ohio. Isaac Smucker, the first bishop, moved to this locality from McLean Co., Ill., in 1856. About this time a frame church house was built one mile south and one-half mile west of Topeka on the county line road between Noble and Lagrange counties. David Hartzler, a minister, moved here soon after from Fairfield Co., Ohio. George Boller was ordained deacon in the early 60's.

Sunday school was organized in the spring of 1863 with George Boller as the first superintendent. About this time Joseph Kauffman, a minister, moved from Barker Street, Mich. He died in 1868. On Sept. 5, 1869, Gideon Plank was ordained to the ministry, but a few months later moved to Missouri, dying of smallpox soon after reaching that state. On Oct. 30, 1870, David Morrel was ordained minister.

In the spring of 1879 the frame church building was moved back and a brick building replaced it. On Jan. 11, 1880, the first meeting was held in the new church building. Jonas S. Hartzler was ordained to the ministry on April 18, 1881. The following year Jonathan Kurtz was ordained minister and six years later on

April 8, 1888, he was ordained as the second bishop of this congregation.

The deacon, George Boller, died on May 30, 1883, and the congregation was for thirty years without an ordained deacon while visiting brethren performed the duties of that office. In 1887 the English language began to be used in public services. Young People's Bible Meetings were started in the year 1893. J. S. Coffman held first series of meetings in January, 1887. It was in November of this year that the aged bishop Isaac Smucker passed away.

In the fall of 1895 Jonas S. Hartzler moved to Elkhart to assist in the Elkhart Institute. On Sept. 7, 1903, Andrew J. Yontz was ordained to the ministry and on August 9 of the next year David Morrel died. After returning from India in 1904, Irvin Detweiler was ordained to the ministry and about a year later moved to Goshen. On April 27, 1913, Melvin D. Lantz and John Emmert were ordained deacons.

The church building was raised and a basement large enough to accommodate the primary department of the Sunday school was constructed in 1915. It was in this year that Andrew Yontz united with the Brethren denomination. The next year Raymond L. Hartzler was ordained to the ministry.

In June, 1924, some of the members declared their withdrawal from the Indiana-Michigan conference and demanded the church building. The congregation then held services in the private homes until a new house of worship was erected on South Main street in Topeka. The new building was dedicated on May 24, 1925 when J. S. Hartzler and J. F. Funk of Elkhart assisted in the service. On Nov. 1, 1925, Edwin J. Yoder was ordained to the ministry.

MAPLE RIVER CHURCH

From what we can learn, the first Mennonites to migrate to this section were the family of Abraham Detweiler, a minister formerly from Ontario, but later a resident of Kent Co., Mich., and a minister in the Caledonia Mennonite Church. They came to Brutus in 1879, as did also Jonas Brubachers. Later settlers in this community were the families of Joseph Detweilers in 1880 from Ontario, Jacob Sauders in 1881 from Ontario, John Kilmers in 1882 from Indiana, and Christian Detweiler from Kent Co., Mich. Still later came Owen Sniders, Jonathan Gehmans, and Jonas Leinbachs all from Indiana, Amos Brubachers from Ontario, and the Tyson families David, Samuel, John, and Isaac, Abram and David Boyers, and Benjamin Leghorns all from Wood

Co., Ohio, and others. Many of these had grown children and soon a number of other homes were established.

The church house a frame structure was built in 1883 a mile west of Brutus.

As helper in the ministry to Abraham W. Detweiler, Jonathan Gehman was ordained at this place by Bishop Jacob Wisler of Indiana. This was prior to the division of the Wisler faction from the main part of the Church which occurred here about 1886. The year following Christian Detweiler was ordained to the ministry by Bishop Henry Shaum of Indiana. He died in March, 1917. John Reinbold was ordained as deacon about 1902 but moved to Alberta in 1910. After J. P. Miller was ordained bishop at White Cloud, he had the bishop oversight here until the District Mission Board assumed charge.

After the division our membership never was very large. In 1912 communion was served to seven, and in 1919 only three members remained. In the summer of 1920 steps were taken to revive the work and on Nov. 7, 1920, at the request of the Mission Board, Clyde X. Kauffman of the Clinton Frame congregation near Goshen, Ind., was ordained to the ministry and received appointment as pastor for the work, locating here in the spring. At once several families were received from the Wisler branch, a few who had dropped out were reclaimed, some moved in from Indiana and Alberta, Canada, and a number were baptized, so that at the close of the first year of the resident minister the membership numbered twenty-five. These various means of accession continued until in the course of a few years the membership had increased to over fifty. Then a reaction set in and largely by removing to other localities—some to their former homes, some for financial reasons, and others—the resident communicant membership decreased to nearly that of the first year.

One ordination was effected during this time; namely, that of Manford Freed to the office of deacon, Nov, 22, 1925. The brethren who had the bishop oversight during these years were Jacob K. Bixler, Oscar Hostetler, and D. D. Troyer, each acting in the capacity of Mission Supt., under which jurisdiction the congregation has continued to this present beginning of the new year, 1929.

MIDDLEBURY CHURCH

In the fall of 1902 the possibility of organizing a Mennonite church in the town of Middlebury was discussed by some members of the Mennonite and Amish Mennonite churches who were then living in the town of Middlebury. The project was brought

to the notice of members of neighboring congregations receiving but little encouragement, and some active opposition. But by the town people encouragement was expressed in a substantial way. The question of a suitable meeting place was the most serious phase of the work. The town people came forward with a subscription paper, stating: We would like to see a Mennonite church established in the town of Middlebury and also assist in erecting a suitable church building. A meeting was called to get a more definite expression of all on the subject. A decision was reached to the effect that as we were then situated it would be advisable to drop the matter entirely or rent some place of meeting. The matter was accordingly dropped as no suitable place seemed to be for rent.

Later, however, a class for the discussion of the Sunday school lessons was organized, meeting at one of the homes one evening each week. The class grew to such an extent that soon the average home was too small. Consequently, chairs were rented from undertaker A. Haines and Son, and the meetings were held at the home of Benjamin A. Bontrager.

About this time it was deemed necessary that an organization be effected. Accordingly W. W. Page was elected Moderator, and a committee of three (viz., P. B. Thut, B. A. Bontrager and Henry Karch) were appointed whose duty it was to assume the management of the business affairs, and to secure a minister to hold services when once a suitable place was secured. Not long after this organization had been effected, the hall, known as the "Prescott Hall" was offered to us for forty dollars per year. This agreement was entered into and accordingly on May 10, 1903 Sunday school was organized and preaching services held. Bro. D. D. Miller preached the first sermon. On Oct. 28, 1903 the hall was offered for sale in such a manner that a decision would have to be reached within a week. After a hurried consultation with those interested, the hall was purchased for $500.00, including chairs, stoves, etc., but not the ground; the hall to be removed within eighteen months from date of purchase unless another lease of the ground be granted before.

On Dec. 1-9, a series of meetings were held by Bro. Leaman of the Chicago Mission with ten confessions.

A petition with 34 signatures was presented to both the Mennonite and the Amish Mennonite conferences and an organization was effected June 30, 1904 with Bro. D. J. Johns as bishop and Andrew J. Hostetler as minister. The first communion services were held on Nov. 13, 1904, Bro. D. J. Johns officiating, assisted by Simon S. Yoder, deacon from the Forks congregation. The ground on which the building stood was leased at $20.00 per an-

num until 1911 when three lots were purchased and with the aid of the town people and the surrounding congregations a substantial brick structure was erected.

Simon S. Yoder transferred his membership from the Forks congregation as a deacon, and was later ordained to the ministry. In the absence of a deacon the congregation appointed brethren to act as visiting brethren until Nov. 11, 1911 when Jacob C. Hershberger transferred his membership from the Clinton Brick congregation as a deacon. He died Dec. 20, 1920. In about the year 1913 Bro. Johns was relieved from the work of bishop here and the congregation was assigned to Bro. D. D. Miller of the Forks congregation.

On Oct. 14, 1920 the membership had reached the number of 228 but lost out again so that in Nov., 1923 the membership was 209. At this time a division took place and only about 110 members remained with Andrew J. Hostetler as pastor.

On Nov. 16, 1924, Earl Miller was ordained as deacon. Bro. A. J. Hostetler was called to his eternal reward on Nov. 24, 1925, leaving the church without a resident minister, but worship continues with the aid of ministers from other congregations, Bro. Silas Yoder assisting the most.

The membership numbers 186 at present.

D. S. Blough, Secy.

MIDLAND CHURCH

The first Mennonite family of our denomination to locate near Midland, Mich., was that of Jacob Emmert on Thanksgiving Day, 1910. These were followed the next year by A. D. Millers. Both of these families formerly resided in the Emma, Ind., congregation. The first church services were conducted by their former pastor, O. S. Hostetler, followed later by Jacob K. Bixler, in the Gray schoolhouse north of Midland.

Through the influence of the District Mission Board, William Haarer and family located here in the spring of 1913 and Sunday school was organized. He was the first superintendent. Through a privilege then granted by conference, he also conducted church services. He returned to Shipshewana, Ind., in 1916.

In the spring of 1916, Eli Bontrager, minister, from Fairview, Mich., located at this place and took charge of the work. About this time, or soon after, a number of families migrated here, namely, Albert Wyses, Abram Yoders, Aaron Nofzingers, and George Shorts from Fulton Co., O., Abram B. Millers and Levi Yoders from Brandon, Colo., Ora Troyers from Oklahoma, Ezra Yoders from Kansas, David Kauffmans from Fairview, Mich., and

a few others from other points who soon left again. From this time regular church services and Sunday school were conducted in an old dwelling house on the A. D. Miller farm north of Midland until the fall of 1917. A lot three miles southwest of the city was donated by Albert Wyse and an old lodge hall in the community was purchased and moved to this lot. Services were held in it until the dedication of the new church house on March 4, 1928.

Two ordinations have taken place in this congregation, namely, that of Albert Wyse as deacon on Dec. 4, 1919, and Floyd Bontrager as minister on Sept. 5, 1926. These, with Eli Bontrager, constitute the present ministry. The membership in 1928 was 81. This congregation is still under the direct supervision of the District Mission Board and its superintendent.

NORTH MAIN ST. CHURCH

Nappanee, Ind.

During the years 1858-63 the first Mennonite families began to settle in Locke and Union townships, Elkhart County. One of their first needs was a place where they might worship. Being some distance away from the Yellow Creek and Holdeman churches where services were held, they began to have preaching in the Culp schoolhouse, one and one half miles northeast of where Nappanee now is. These services were held every four weeks by ministers who came in from the Holdeman and Yellow Creek districts. Those families that were the pioneers in this beginning of the Nappanee congregation were Henry Culp Sr., Elias D. Rupert, Christian P. Housour, Justus Walter, Daniel Metzler, David Burkholder, etc.

In 1867 a small schoolhouse was built in Nappanee on North Main Street. Then the services were abandoned in the Culp schoolhouse and were held in the Nappanee schoolhouse. In 1878 when a larger schoolhouse was built in Nappanee these brethren bought the old frame schoolhouse and lot, remodeled and put new seats in it.

In 1878 or '79 Sunday school was started which seemed to create a new interest. On May 15, 1880, David Burkholder was ordained minister to care for the flock and this sets the date when the congregation was organized. Most of the preaching up to this time was in the German language. Soon after Bro. Burkholder was ordained, services were held every two weeks, instead of every four weeks, and the membership began to grow so that in 1893 it numbered 47.

The little schoolhouse became too small for the work, so in 1893 a new brick house was erected on the present location for about $2800. This brought rather a heavy debt on the little flock but with the charitable coöperation of other congregations and individuals and through God's blessing the debt was finally cancelled.

About this time preaching was held every Sunday; the first series of meetings was held in 1894 with J. S. Coffman as evangelist. Some time later, perhaps about 1908, young people's meetings were started and with these combined efforts, souls were gathered into the kingdom so that by 1906 the membership was about 117.

In 1912 it was again thought necessary to enlarge the building. The house was raised, a basement put under with a room for the primary department and a furnace to heat the building. In 1921 a balcony was put in the building.

As has been stated David Burkholder was ordained as minister when the congregation was organized in 1880, and later was given the bishop oversight. In 1888 preacher Jacob Bleile transferred his membership from the West Market St., congregation and assisted in the work until a few years before his death. In 1899 Frank Hartman was ordained to the ministry and assisted in the work for several years until his withdrawal to the Evangelical denomination.

In 1903 preacher Noah Metzler (who labored in the Yellow Creek district) moved to Nappanee and helped to care for the flock until his death on June 2, 1907.

On Aug. 20, 1907 Ezra S. Mullet was ordained to the ministry and was Bro. Burkholder's co-laborer until June 8, 1923, when Bro. Burkholder passed to his eternal reward. However, in 1918 Bro. Burkholder asked to be relieved of his bishopric duties, so conference appointed Jacob Christophel bishop over the congregation.

In the fall of 1923, when the division came in the church Ezra Mullet went with the progressive group to the West Market St., congregation. Others of the conservative group came from the West Market St., congregation to the North Main St., congregation, but this congregation was left without a minister. For a while different ministers came in and preached; later, D. D. Troyer was made responsible for the preaching services for almost two years.

On Aug. 1, 1926, H. F. North was ordained minister to have charge of the congregation and is serving in that capacity at the present time.

Two deacons have served the congregation; the first one, Jacob Wisler, who came from the Salem congregation about 1890

served until he moved to Elkhart. Frank B. Maust, who was ordained deacon in 1903, is serving in that office at the present time.

In looking over the history of this congregation, there have been times in her experience, when trying and baffling problems have confronted her and no doubt ofttimes brought discouragement, but many were her experiences of victory and increased faith and trust in God.

The membership totals approximately 230 at the present time.

THE OLIVE CHURCH

This congregation is located in Olive Township, Elkhart Co., Ind. Formerly it was known as the Shaum congregation, the first church house having been built on the Shaum farm. In later years it has been known as the Olive church. Among the first Mennonite settlers in this community are the names Moyer, Smith, Hoover, and Weldy.

Bro. Daniel Moyer a minister from Ohio moved on a farm west of Jamestown. He with a number of other Mennonites began worship in a log schoolhouse, located one mile north of the present church. In the fall of 1862 a frame building was erected on the present site and was used as a place of worship until 1888 when the present brick structure was erected. Bro. Moyer was in charge of the work here until the time of his death, which was brought about in a railroad wreck when he was en route to Canada. For a number of years after his death Bro. J. F. Funk came and filled appointments regularly. Daniel Brenneman from Elida, Ohio moved into the vicinity and preached here for several years.

Henry Shaum was ordained minister and later bishop for this place. At his death the congregation was again without a resident minister and was cared for by the ministers from the surrounding congregations. On April 16, 1896, Jacob Shank was ordained to the ministry and had charge of the congregation until his death, Nov. 27, 1905. In January, 1907, D. A. Yoder of the Holdeman congregation was called and placed in charge of the work and in 1910 was ordained bishop. Feeling the need of another minister to help in the work C. A. Shank was ordained, May 5, 1917.

The brethren Jacob Wisler, Henry Shaum, John F. Funk, David Burkholder, J. K. Bixler, and D. A. Yoder have served as bishops of the congregation, and during the same period the brethren, Henry Christophel, Jacob Long, Jonas Brubaker, Daniel Coffman and Irvin Long have served in the office of deacon.

At the present time there is a membership of 195. The following brethren have charge of the work at present: D. A. Yoder, bishop; C. A. Shank, minister; Jonas Brubaker and Irvin Long, deacons.

PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH

Near Chief, Michigan

Pleasant View is located on two acres of ground which includes a cemetery. It is one and one-fourth miles south, and one mile east of Chief, Mich., and fifteen miles northeast of Manistee, the Countyseat of Manistee county. The building is 24 x 32 feet with an anteroom 8 x 12 feet. There is no basement. The seating capacity is 120.

This congregation was originally the result of colonization. In 1903 Wm. Lantz of Indiana, hearing of the wonderful climate, decided to move there for the benefit of his wife's health. His enthusiastic report of the climate, cheap land, and delicious fruit soon caused others to move there in hope that they might also be benefited in a material way. By 1904 enough people had moved in to organize a congregation, so on Sept. 9, 1904 Bishop E. A. Mast of Howard Co., Ind., met with them and organized the following members into a congregation: Joseph Horner and wife, Samuel Shrock and wife, Altine Shrock and wife, David Sommers and wife, Louis Zook and wife, Israel Harris and wife, Joseph Shrock and Wm. Lantz. Benjamin Klingelsmith and wife, Mrs. Ezra Shrock, Noah Shrock and wife, and Mrs. Valentine Graf soon moved in also.

The first meetings were held in an old log cabin which is still standing. The present building was erected in 1906. Quite a bit of the material was donated and most of the work was done by volunteer labor. The meetinghouse was dedicated in May, 1906, by Bishop Jonathan Kurtz of Topeka, Indiana.

There was a steady growth until 1911 when there were 48 members. However, the pastor moved back to his former home and others moved away both before and after the pastor left so that before long only one family was left. Some time before this Bro. Mast was relieved of Bishop oversight of the congregation at his own request and Bro. Menno Esch was placed in charge by the Conference. He had charge of the work till 1913 when Bro. J. K. Bixler was appointed bishop. Some time before 1917 the property was sold to the Dunkards because of the discouraging outlook, but because of an overlooked clause in the deed and Bro. Bixler's relentless interest in the Cause the property fell into Mennonite hands again. No doubt it was also through Bro. Bixler's efforts blessed of God that the few remaining members stayed so that a renewed effort could be made.

In 1917 the Indiana-Michigan Rural Mission Board had a conviction that the work should be revived again. As a result of a meeting of the Executive Committee, Bro. Claude C. Culp of

Goshen, Ind., a member of the Yellow Creek congregation, was appointed worker in November and ordained a minister on Dec. 23, 1917. However, he was drafted and sent to Camp Taylor, Ky., on Mar. 28, 1918, and later to Ft. Leavenworth, Kans. On May 15, 1919, Bro. and Sister Culp moved to Chief to take over the work. There were 7 members in the church then.

We have no glowing report to give. The membership has not increased by leaps and bounds, but rather a slow and steady growth is shown. What we prize most highly is that God is answering prayer often and men's hearts are being opened to the truth, so we have confidence in the future.

PRAIRIE STREET CHURCH

Elkhart, Indiana

John F. Funk, a lumber dealer of Chicago, began publishing the Herald of Truth in January, 1864. He was ordained to the ministry in Grundy Co., Ill., May 27, 1865. It soon became evident to him that the publishing business required his entire time, so on April 6, 1867, he and wife moved to Elkhart, Ind., a town of 3,000 population. They were the first Mennonites in the city. John Snyder, a minister formerly from Snider Co., Pa., lived at that time on the Edwardsburg Road a mile north of the city, but later moved to Kansas.

The publishing business expanded rapidly and later became the Mennonite Publishing Company. This drew a number of Mennonites to the city. Among these were Michael Keagy, Martin D. Wenger, A. K. Funk, Joseph Summers and wife, and Henry B. Brenneman and wife. Bro. Brenneman came from Fairfield Co., O., and was a deacon. These became the nucleus of the little congregation. Later additions to the flock were, Herman Dyck, Mary Landis, David Nolds, Lewis Kulps, Jacob Craters, H. A. Mumaws, A. B. Kolb, Tobias Pages, Daniel Coffmans, and others.

For the first few years, the members in the city worshiped with the country churches, either at Yellow Creek, Shaums (now Olive) or Jones' Schoolhouse. After Dec. 4, 1870, preaching services were conducted regularly in the homes every two weeks in charge of the brethren Funk and Brenneman, with occasionally visiting ministers. A lot on Prairie Street was purchased in the fall of 1870 and a church house was erected in 1871 and the first service in it was held on Nov. 26th. The first communion service was on Dec. 25, 1871. This same house is yet in use, having been enlarged in 1895 and again in 1901.

The publishing interests and the founding of Elkhart Institute (now Goshen College) in 1894, drew other ministers to this place who resided here and helped to mould not only the local congregation but the Church at large, among these being, J. S. Coffman who came from Virginia in 1879 and died in 1899; Samuel Yoder from St. Joseph Co., Ind., in 1886 until bodily infirmities prevented and his death on Mar. 26, 1925; J. S. Lehman from Freeport, Ill., in 1892 until his removal to Pennsylvania in 1904; J. S. Hartzler from Topeka, Ind., in October, 1895; and D. H. Bender from Pennsylvania in 1905 until his removal to Scottdale, Pa., and later to Hesston, Kans. The first ordination service was on Mar. 9, 1893 when M. S. Steiner was ordained to the ministry to take up evangelistic work and Daniel H. Coffman to the office of deacon. After Bro. Coffman's removal from Elkhart, Jacob Wisler who had located in the city served as deacon, until the ordination of George L. Bender to that office on July 28, 1907. Bro. Bender died Jan. 17, 1921, his successor being Oliver P. Grosh who was ordained on Oct. 17, 1920, and is the present deacon. William B. Weaver was ordained to the ministry on Sept. 13, 1914 and moved to Goshen in 1920 and later went to Illinois. With the removal of the Elkhart Institute to Goshen, Ind., in 1903, J. S. Hartzler followed the school, but returned to Elkhart in 1923. Other ministers who served in the congregation are, George Lambert who was affiliated with this body from 1903 to 1911, J. E. Hartzler from 1910 to 1914, Jacob K. Bixler who came here from Wakarusa, Ind., in September, 1914, and Christian Reiff who came from Newton, Kans., in June, 1924. J. S. Hartzler and the last two named constitute the present active ministry, while Bro. Funk now in his 94th year is on the retired list. Resident bishops of the congregation have been John F. Funk and Jacob K. Bixler.

Elkhart naturally became the center of many church activities, especially so until the Mennonite Publication Board purchased the church periodicals in 1908 and removed them to Scottdale, Pa. Some of these activities not only became state-wide in their effects but Church-wide. Those worthy of special mention are the following: the organization of the first evangelizing and mission interests in 1882, which later became the Mennonite Evangelizing Board and is now known as the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities with its headquarters at 1711 Prairie St.; the Mennonite Aid Plan in 1882 for the purpose of assisting brethren in losses to property by fire and storm; one of the first young people's meetings held in the Mennonite Church; the founding of the first educational institution in 1894 in this branch of the Mennonite Church; the appointment of the first Mennonite foreign mission-

aries when J. A. Ressler and Dr. W. B. Page and wife were appointed in 1898 at this place to work in India; the home of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Mission Board from 1914 to 1925. The present membership of the congregation is 274.

SALEM CHURCH

In order to tell why the Salem Church was organized we must go back to the province of Friesland, Holland. An ordained Mennonite minister, R. J. Schmidt, and others of like faith, in order to escape the strict martial law and very high taxes, after hearing of the religious liberties and the possibilities of securing homes at very reasonable prices in America, decided to come to this country. Early in 1853 a colony started on this long journey and on July 4 came to Goshen, Ind. The next year another colony arrived. Most of these settled in Jackson Twp., Elkhart Co., southwest of Goshen, which was later known as the Holland settlement.

Besides Bro. Schmidts there were several Fisher families, also Hygemas, Ryestraws, Pastmas, Symensmas, DeFreese, and others.

After coming to their new homes they had preaching services in the Ryestraw home every four weeks for nearly twenty years and then in the Neff schoolhouse. These services were conducted entirely in the Dutch language. They also attended services at the Christophel (log) church two and one-fourth miles east of Foraker which were conducted mostly in the German language. They attended communion at Yellow Creek, many walking. The writer was informed of a young woman desirous of being at the communion who walked nine miles and got there in time for services.

As time went on the Christophel church building was fast falling into decay. It was then that the need of a new building and a suitable location was keenly felt and discussed. In 1889 the location was selected, the building erected, and a congregation organized. This is nearly halfway between Yellow Creek and the Neff schoolhouse, also about halfway between the Christophel and Blossers (both log), churches.

At the time the Salem congregation was organized it was composed of about one-half Holland members.

In 1893 Pre. Schmidt died, thus leaving Salem without a resident minister, but deacon Jacob Wisler had the help of the Yellow Creek ministers. The first bishop to serve them was Bish. Henry Shaum, and later the brethren J. F. Funk and David Burkholder. While they were without a resident minister, some of those who

kindly preached for them besides the ministers Metzler, Loucks, and Christophel (the Yellow Creek brethren), were Pre. John Hygema, Henry Weldy, Amos Mumaw, Jacob Shank, J. S. Coffman, Samuel Yoder, and others.

In 1894 when Dea. Wisler was transferred to Nappanee, J. H. Bare was ordained to serve in his stead, which was the first ordination here. Since there have been four ordinations, twice for deacon and twice for minister. Bish. J. W. Christophel has the bishop oversight and the ministers are J. H. Bare and R. F. Yoder.

Salem was among the first to have special evangelistic services west of Goshen. For nineteen years preaching services were conducted only every second week, but since 1908 they have been held every Sunday.

SHORE CHURCH

Lagrange County, Indiana

The writer of this bit of history has tried to gather as much dependable data as possible, in order to make this work as complete and comprehensive as possible, but has found that not much valuable information was available.

At an early date, Bro. Jno. Nusbaum, a minister located near Forest Grove, Elkhart Co., Ind., and preached at the Clinton Church (now known as Clinton Brick Church) and later also preached at the Shore schoolhouse, Lagrange Co., Indiana. From this time on for many years the Shore and Clinton churches were under the leadership of the same ministers, there being no resident bishop for a good many years. According to a small Miller history, Henry A. Miller moved from Ohio to Elkhart Co., Ind., in 1844 and about seven years later located near Shore, Lagrange Co., Indiana. Some time later he united with the Shore church and finally was ordained to the ministry. Not many years later J. J. Weaver was also ordained to the ministry. By this time Bro. Nusbaum had become old and was possibly deceased. It became the duty of the Brethren Miller and Weaver also to serve the Clinton congregation. Bro. Jno. Nusbaum, Jr., served as deacon for both churches at this time.

Up to this time dates seem to be obscure, but we have now reached a period in the history of the Shore congregation, in which we have at least some fixed dates to guide us in a work of this kind. In 1874 the Church built a small house of worship 30 x 40 feet, on the west side of the Shore lake, and ever since bears the name, The Shore Mennonite congregation. At some

intervening period P. Y. Lehman, a minister, located in the Clinton district, and assisted the Brethren Miller and Weaver, in the care of the churches. On June 17, 1883, James J. Mishler was ordained deacon for the Shore congregation, and on June 18, 1883 Bro. Henry A. Miller was ordained bishop for the Shore and Clinton churches. On Nov. 13, 1887, Amos S. Cripe was ordained to the ministry in the Shore Church. By this time Bishop H. A. Miller felt the need of a helper in his work, accordingly about 1890, P. Y. Lehman was ordained as a helper. In 1893, Bishop Miller died, and by the unfaithfulness and withdrawal of P. Y. Lehman these churches were again left without a bishop. A few years later (date not at hand) it was again felt necessary that this vacancy be filled and Bro. Jno. Garber was ordained to this responsible position. Previous to this, on Dec. 4, 1892, Y. C. Miller was ordained a minister at Shore by P. Y. Lehman.

In 1893 the church was moved across the road, remodeled and enlarged, 14 feet being built on the end and convenient anterooms on the east side.

On Oct. 15, 1902, Josiah J. Miller was ordained to the ministry at Shore. Several years later J. P. Miller, a bishop from the Bowne congregation, Kent Co., Mich., located in the Shore district. After some deliberation and a vote of the church, he was chosen as bishop of the Shore congregation. This severed the close connection of the Shore and Clinton churches, Bro. Garber retaining bishop oversight of the Clinton congregation. In the few last years of J. P. Miller's life, he realized that because of his age and declining health he was no more able to shepherd the flock. He requested a helper and O. S. Hostetler was chosen by the church to assist him. After the decease of J. P. Miller Bro. Hostetler was retained as bishop. On Jan. 16, 1927, Percy Miller was ordained deacon.

At the present time, the beginning of 1929, the ministry for the Shore congregation consists of the following brethren, bishop, O. S. Hostetler; ministers, Josiah J. Miller, Yost C. Miller, and Amos S. Cripe; deacons, James J. Mishler and Percy Miller.

This has been a thriving congregation for a good many years, having about 300 members. At several times the membership was somewhat reduced, once by a number of families moving to White Cloud, and again when the Emma congregation was started, but soon had regained its usual membership. The spiritual condition is possibly as good as the average but we realize that there is much room for improvement along this line, and earnestly pray the Lord of the harvest to raise up wide-awake men filled with the Holy Ghost and with power as future leaders and shepherds of the flock.

WHITE CLOUD CHURCH

The first members of the White Cloud, Mich., Mennonite congregation to locate here were mostly from the Shore congregation, Lagrange Co., Ind., coming to this place during the years 1897-99. Among these families were Christian Dester, Eli Shultz, Fannie Kauffman, Samuel Jones, Isaac Mishler, Joseph J. Miller, John F. Miller, Eli Zook, Joseph Sarver, D. L. Christophel, Harvey Miller, and others. Afterwards others came from the same locality together with several families from Wakarusa, Ind., and a few families from other states, until in the course of four or five years the church had a membership of nearly ninety.

As soon as the first three or four families had located the desire for Christian activities was manifested in the starting of Sunday school, which was held during the first summer in the homes of the members. The next year, a schoolhouse having been built in the neighborhood, Sunday school was held in the schoolhouse and preaching services whenever a minister happened to come this way. In the spring of 1899 a congregation was regularly organized by Bishop P. Y. Lehman and James J. Mishler of the Shore church. For the next year the place was not regularly supplied, being supplied by visiting ministers whenever possible. On July 1, 1900, Jacob P. Miller who had located here, also coming from the Shore church, was ordained by Bishop J. F. Funk, to the ministry, and less than a year later was ordained a bishop. Eli Zook was ordained a deacon in the fall of 1900 and continued to serve this congregation until 1910 when he moved away. A few years later John Springer was ordained to the ministry but did not serve long as he was obliged to seek a different climate on account of his health. In Dec., 1909, T. U. Nelson was ordained to the ministry and is still serving the congregation in that capacity.

After Eli Zook moved away from this congregation Harvey W. Sarver was ordained deacon and after serving several years moved away, when Harvey A. Miller was ordained, who served until his death which occurred in Aug., 1924. Since his death the congregation has been without a deacon.

The congregation has been under the bishop oversight of the following bishops, Jacob P. Miller and David A. Yoder while an independent congregation, and of Jacob K. Bixler and D. D. Troyer since coming under the care of the Mission Board.

The intervening years have brought many changes. It has been the misfortune of this church to have come in contact with what may be called a "floater" class of members, who are here this year and by next year have gone to some other place. But

there have also been those who have given much of themselves for the cause at this place and for whom the church can but feel thankful for the abiding influence which they have left behind as they have moved onward to other places where we may be sure that they are wielding their influence to the glory of God. As we look over the roll of our memory as to the membership of the church as it is at present, we find that death has claimed our elders, our fathers and mothers, and as we call the roll of the thirty original members, who a little less than thirty years ago were organized into the White Cloud congregation, only three respond to the roll call, the rest have gone hence, to other fields, and to God.

YELLOW CREEK CHURCH

Near Goshen, Ind.

The early history of the Mennonite Church in Elkhart County, Indiana, centers about Yellow Creek. Among the earliest members were John Smith, Bishop Martin Hoover, Christian, and Pre. Jacob Christophel. These arrived from Pennsylvania and Ohio from 1843 to 1848. Among later settlers were such names as Hartman, Holdeman, Smeltzer, Moyer, Henning, Weldy, Rohrer, Brundage, Freed, Hershey, Miller, Weaver, Nusbaum, Hoover, Yoder and others, a goodly number coming in the years 1848—1849.

The first service was held in a log schoolhouse one-half mile north of Southwest, on Ascension Day, 1848, with 16 present. During the summer of 1849, a log meetinghouse 29 feet square was erected one mile north of Southwest. This was superseded in 1861 by a frame building 40 x 60 which is still standing and is now owned by the Wisler branch of the Church.

During the first 20 years, by settlements and additions, the Church enjoyed considerable prosperity, and it soon became apparent that other congregations should be organized. Olive, Holdeman, Nappanee, Salem, and Elkhart were organized in turn, but Yellow Creek was still the center and for some years it was still the place where conferences, most baptismal, and communion services were held for all these congregations. In 1861, over 600 brethren and sisters communed.

Until about 1885, the Mennonite Conferences for Indiana and Michigan were held at Yellow Creek. In 1871 the division, which resulted in the organization of the Wisler Church occurred here, and in 1874 the "Brenneman division" also took place at Yellow Creek. This congregation owned the frame church jointly with

the Wisler branch until 1912 when the brick building now occupied by the congregation was erected.

Bishops who have been connected with the church were Martin Hoover, Jacob Wisler, John M. Christophel, Jacob A. Beutler, John F. Funk, David Burkholder, J. K. Bixler, D. A. Yoder, and Jacob W. Christophel. Ministers have been as follows: Jacob Christophel, Benjamin Hershey, Christian Baer, Daniel Moyer, Daniel Brundage, Christian Christophel, Jacob Buzzard, Noah Metzler, Jonas Loucks, and Allen B. Christophel. The following have served as deacons: David Martin, Daniel Hoover, Jacob Long, Noah S. Hoover, and Henry B. Weaver. Jacob W. Christophel, Jonas Loucks, Allen B. Christophel, and Henry B. Weaver constitute the present ministry and the membership numbers about 215.

One of the first Bible Readings in the Conference District was started at Yellow Creek in 1892.

ZION CHURCH

Near Vestaburg, Mich.

The first Mennonites known to reside in the community of Vestaburg, Mich., are Mrs. Henry Detweiler and daughter, Mrs. Frank B. Switzer, who resided here for years before the organization of the church. The Christian Eichelberger family moved from Illinois to Alma, Mich., about 12 miles east, a few years before the organization. During the fall of 1913, four Mennonite families from other parts of Michigan located here, namely, Abram Snyders, David Schlonegers, Reuben Schlonegers, and David Summers. The first service in charge of Mennonites in this community was on Dec. 1, 2, 1913 in the house of the Church of the Brethren by Jacob K. Bixler. The District Mission Board asked John M. Yoder, then of Homestead, Mich., to locate here, which he did early in the spring of 1914. On July 26, 1914, the Zion congregation was organized, Bro. Yoder ordained to the ministry, and regular services begun. The first communion service was held July 28. An abandoned schoolhouse was secured, repaired, and used as a place of worship until the fall of 1919, when a new church house was erected on a lot donated by Abram Snyder about four miles south and west of Vestaburg. It was dedicated on Dec. 7, 1919. On Sept. 23, 1917, Simeon P. Martin of the community was ordained deacon, but he left the Church in 1923. Royal A. Buskirk, also a native of the community, was ordained minister on Nov. 27, 1917. In March, 1920, John M. Yoder and family moved to Missouri. The membership never exceeded 36.

A number of families moved away, others proved unfaithful, and the few left became discouraged, so that by 1926-27 the work was practically closed. The District Mission Board secured the services of Erie Bontrager from Midland, Mich., who assisted with the work, and located here in the fall of 1928. He was ordained minister on Nov. 4, 1928. The present membership is 17.

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